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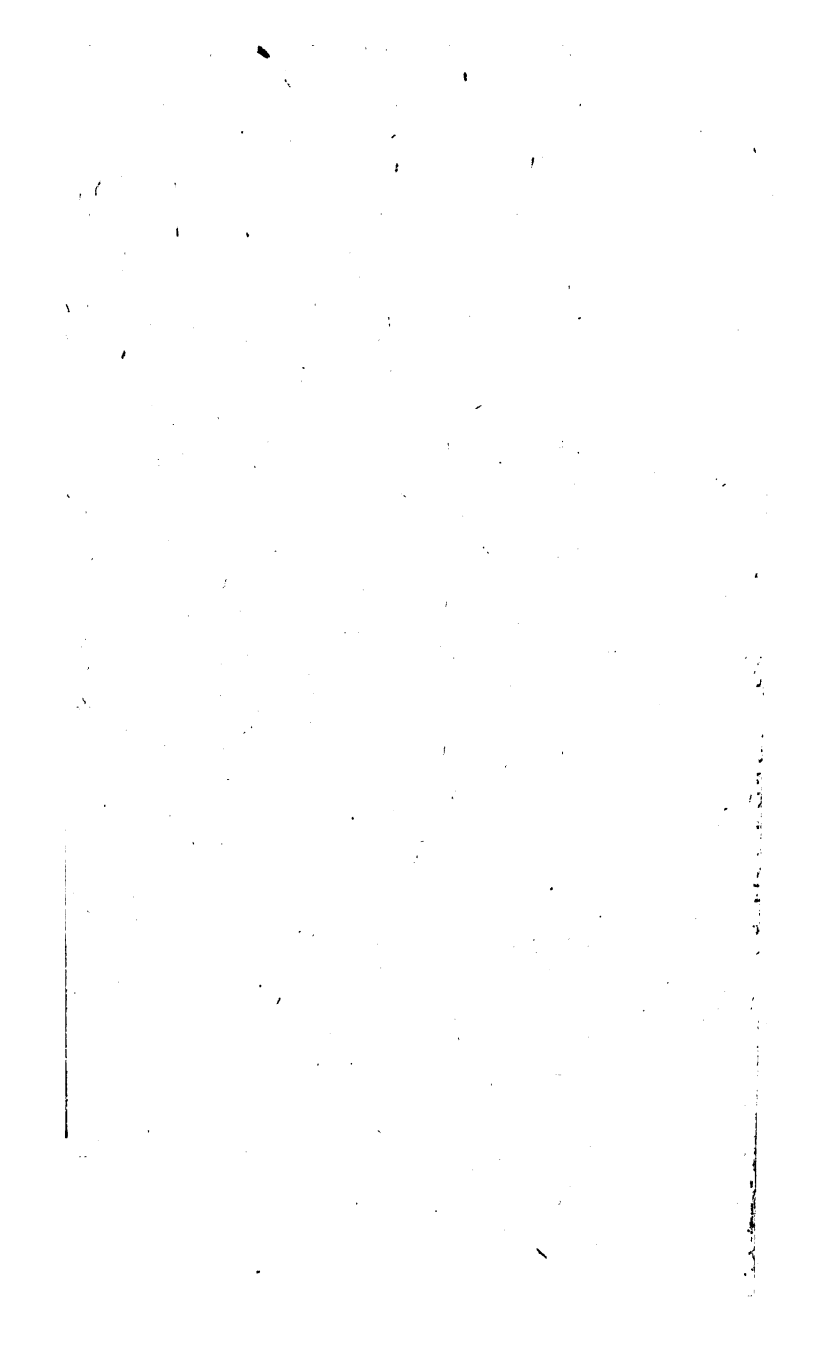
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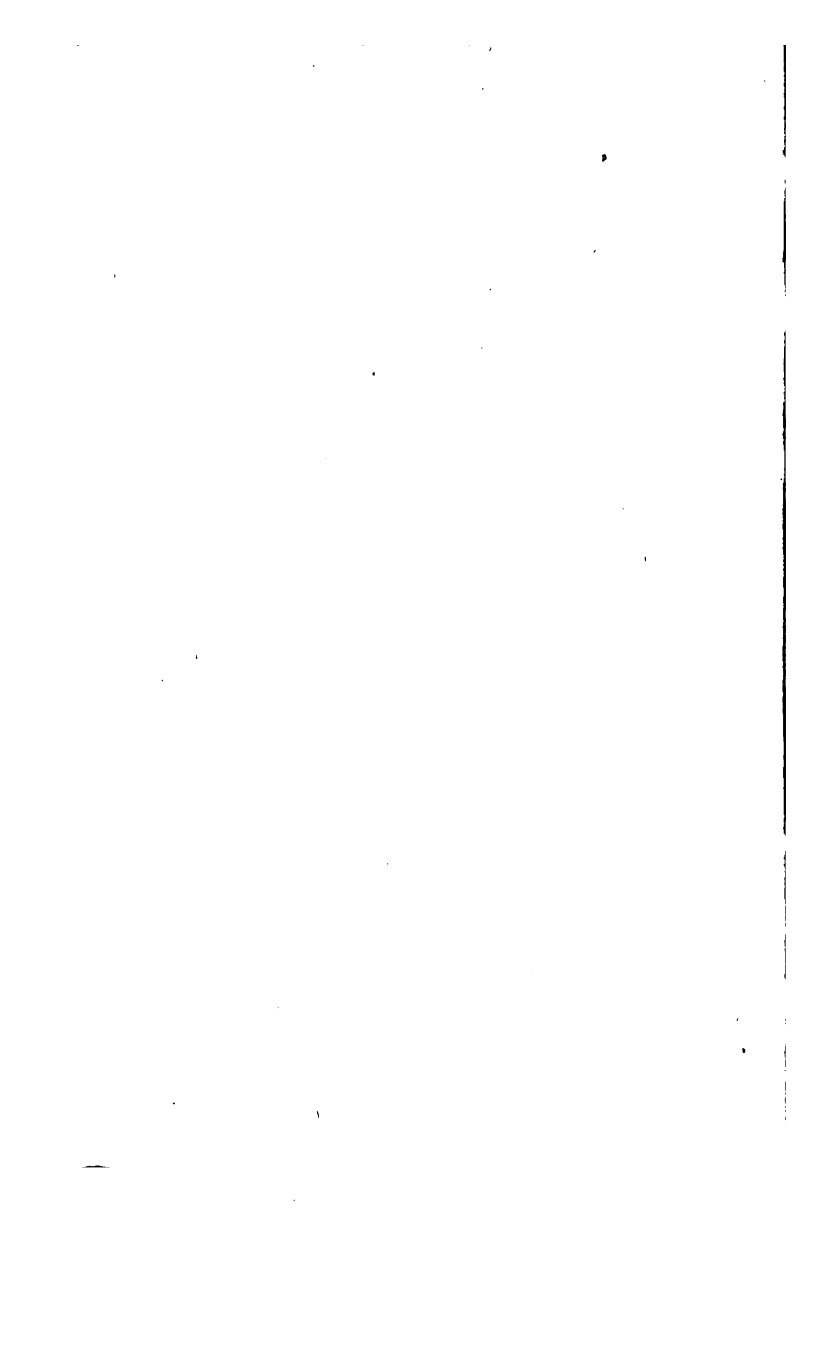
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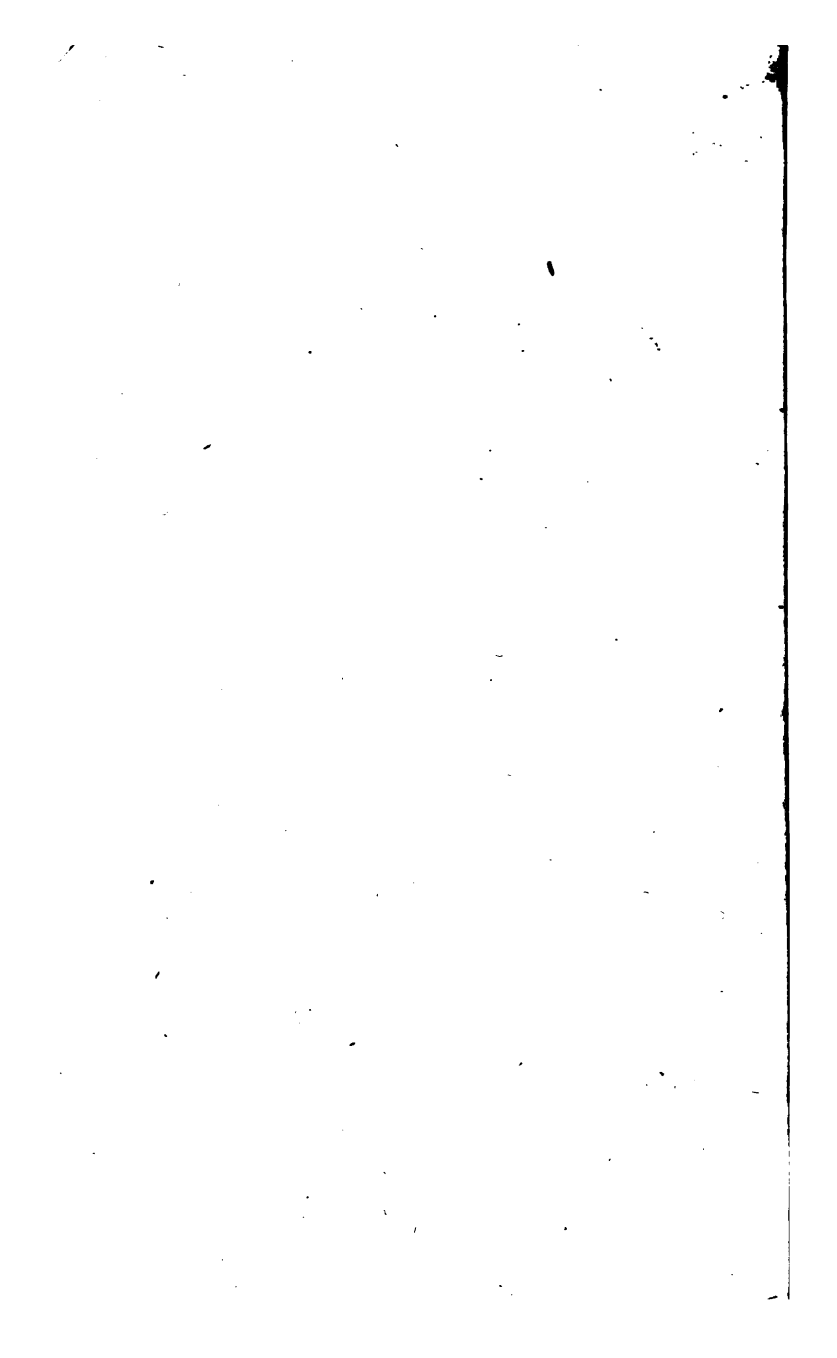
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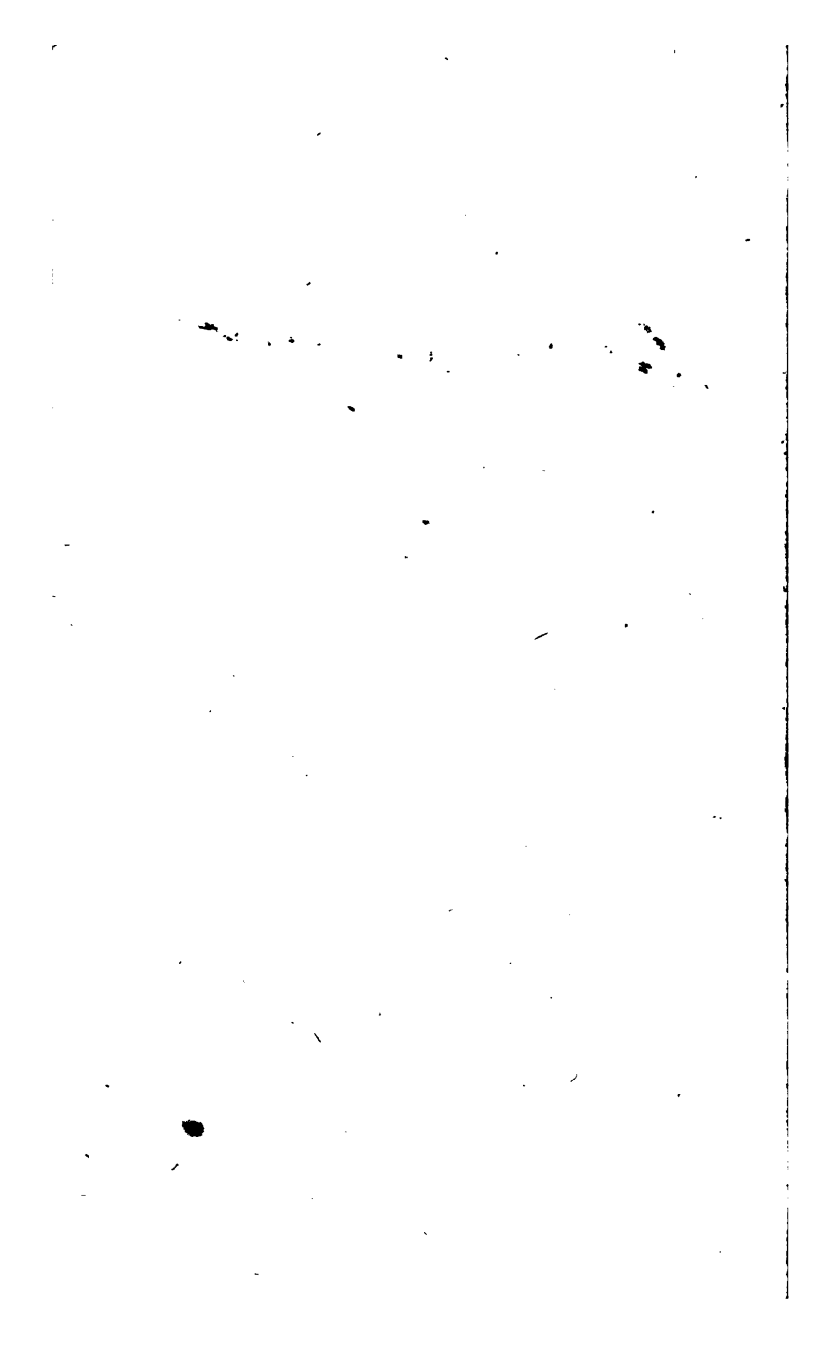
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John D. Calderston

Lumberville

1837



SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE AND RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
OF
MARY ALEXANDER,
LATE OF
NEEDHAM MARKET.

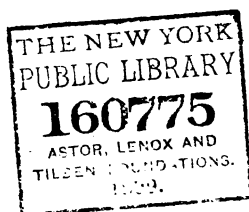
"Ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say
"We are unprofitable servants: we have done [only] that which was our duty,
"to do."
Luke xvii. 10.

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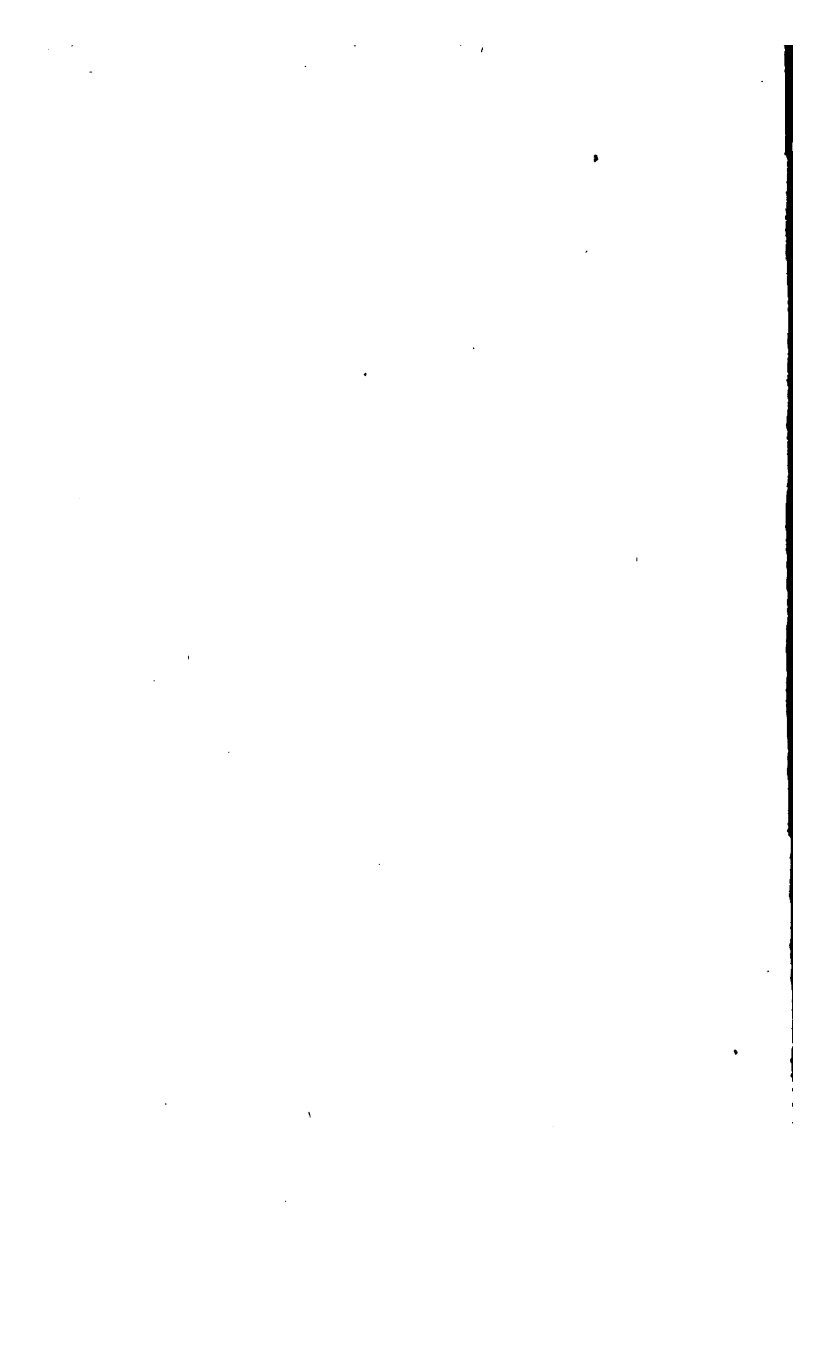
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PREFACE.

IN publishing this account of a dearly beloved sister, there is not a great deal, as Editor to perform, more than to write a fair transcript of her own remarks; till the last few months of her life. This period does not appear to be recorded by herself; and the omission is easily accounted for. She died whilst from home on a religious visit; and, having a retentive memory, it seems to have been her practice, sometimes, to commit to writing the events of a journey, after her return home.

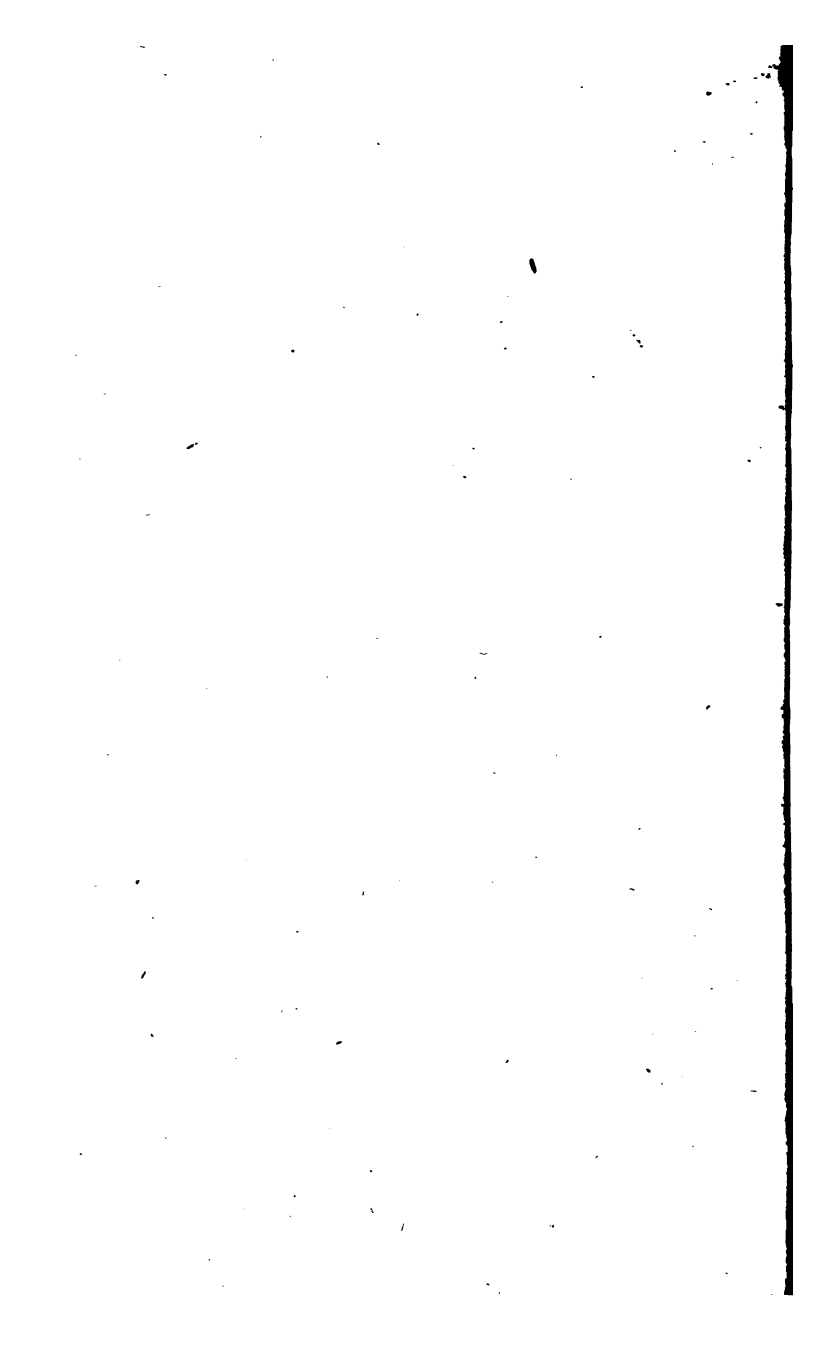
The Editor has thought he could not better supply the defect in her own narrative, than by giving some information respecting her last exercising labours, and by adding an account of the closing scene.



(Alexander, M.)

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John D. Calderston

Lumberville

1837

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SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE AND RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE
OF
MARY ALEXANDER.

CHAPTER I.

From her Birth to the 8th Month, 1789.

Remarks by the Editor, including a testimony concerning her mother.—Her inducement for writing these memoirs.—A remarkable occurrence at 10 years old. Her first impression respecting a gift in the ministry. On reading the scriptures, plays, and romances.—The death of her father, sister-in-law, and a near friend.—Further exercise respecting the ministry.

THE subject of these memoirs was born the 7th of 2d Month, 1760, and was the daughter of Dykes and Martha Alexander, of Needham Market, in the county of Suffolk. Her father was in the station of an elder, and her mother in that of a minister. The decease of the latter, when my sister was about

16 years of age, was a heavy loss to her; as maternal care and tenderness, can find many opportunities of protecting the youthful mind, which, from the different avocations of the sexes, evade a father's most assiduous care.

The reader will be qualified to judge more completely of this loss, by perusing the following testimony.

A short testimony from Woodbridge Monthly Meeting, concerning Martha Alexander :—

“ Our friend Martha Alexander, late wife of Dykes Alexander, of Needham Market, in the county of Suffolk, was daughter of John and Abigail Biddle, of Esher in Surry, both valuable friends. Her mother dying when she was young, her father was concerned to educate her, and the rest of his children, agreeably to their station; especially to bring them up, according to the living principle of truth, and in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

“ Our deceased friend was born the 13th of the 12th Month, 1726, and married the 18th of the 12th Month, 1747. She became early sensible of the reaches of Divine grace in her own heart, and embraced its heavenly visitations. Earnestly desirous to obtain an abiding therein, she submitted to the cross of Christ, renouncing the pursuits of vanity

and the pleasures of sin; and walking in circumspection, humility and the fear of the Lord, about the year 1750, she found her mind concerned to engage in the work of the ministry; wherein we doubt not but she endeavoured to discharge herself faithfully, according to her measure.

“As she felt her mind drawn in the love of truth, she visited friends in divers parts of the nation; particularly in London and the parts adjacent, in 1752, in company with Mary Kirby; in the Isle of Ely and there away, 1753, with Margaret Marsham; in the county of Norfolk, 1771, with Mary Gurney; and with the same friend, she attended the quarterly meetings of Lincoln and York in 1774; taking divers meetings in the way both out and home.

“She was not usually large in testimony, but very tender, solid, and weighty; a living example of the doctrines she delivered, in conversation and conduct; a shining pattern of humility and patience, piety and charity, faithful and amiable in every relation of life; affectionately united to the living in Israel; kind and courteous to her neighbours; sympathizing with the afflicted; and liberal to the needy of all denominations.

“She departed this life at her daughter Jesup’s, in Woodbridge, the 18th of the 9th Month 1775; and her interment was respectfully attended, both by friends and neighbours, at Needham Market, the

25th of the same. She was aged near 49, a minister about 25 years."

By comparing the dates, the reader will find that the writer of these memoirs was about 38 years old when she thus commenced them.

11th Month 18th, 1798.

It is not with the smallest supposition that any thing I may have to commit to paper, can be likely to yield either edification or consolation to those who survive me, that I am induced to attempt to write down some circumstances of my life hitherto: but I am led to do it, from a belief which sometimes is the companion of my mind, in solemn seasons, that to look back and consider the merciful dealings of a gracious Creator, with one of the least in his spiritual family, (if worthy to conclude myself at all of this number) and, as events may be brought afresh to my remembrance, to pen them, may tend to my own future satisfaction and instruction. If permitted to continue a few years longer in this state of existence, I expect to experience a partaking of the cup of mixtures. Should the bitter draught be more frequently dispensed than the sweet consolations of His pure spirit, who is the All-wise Physician, and who knows best what potion is most convenient to keep the im-

mortal part in health, and in a state of readiness to receive the crown of eternal life, may I resignedly accept it, and increasingly seek for ability to say with the great Pattern of submission :—" Not my will, but thine be done."*

At a very early age I believe my mind was, at times, visited with the heart-tendering power of the Lord ; long before I knew what it was that contrited my spirit before him. This led me to feel a very great love for such as I esteemed good friends, and enabled me to plead their cause when I heard some speak slightly of them, on account of what were considered singularities. My education did not subject me to such frequent exposures as fall to the lot of many, and perhaps of most ; yet there were seasons when circumstances of this sort did occur. One in particular I remember. When about 10 years of age, I rebuked a person, who was ridiculing one whom I believed to be a valuable woman ; and the person's answer to me was—" I make no doubt but you will be a *preacher* when you grow up." I silently received what she said, and felt a secret reward, which enabled me to rejoice that I was permitted to bear my *little* portion of suffering for espousing the good cause. Yet sorrowful to remember, several years after, I fear I should have felt less ability to have done it, than at that early period : but, with reverent thank-

* LUKE xxii. 42.

fulness I can acknowledge, the wonderful goodness of a merciful God, who never permitted me to go long unrebuked, when I had wandered widely from his holy guidance.

About the seventeenth year of my age, as I was sitting in a meeting at Woodbridge, I saw clearly, that if I was faithful, I should, after a time, be entrusted with a gift in the ministry. Notwithstanding my having been so favoured, I went afterwards much further from the simplicity of my guarded education, in divers respects, than I had done before ; but mercy followed me so nearly and closely, that at times my heart was sad, though I was not guilty of any thing which many thought *much amiss* of, for a young person. I indulged however in many inclinations and propensities, which required to be slain by the sword of the Lord, before I could be brought into a state of acceptance with Him.

At length my desires were earnest to witness redemption from the world ; and, in the twenty-third year of my age, one first day evening, after I came from a neighbouring meeting, in a solid frame of mind, I went into my chamber, and, taking up the bible, opened it at the seventh chapter of the Revelations, and read the two last verses : "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more ; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat ; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall

lead them unto living fountains of waters : and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." On reading this passage my mind was so opened to view this precious state of departed spirits, and, I believe, for a short space so permitted to participate their joy, that Peter-like, I desired I might build a tabernacle, or, in other words, continue in this blessed situation. However I was not allowed to abide long here ; for as he was instructed to *hear* the beloved Son of God, so it was given me to see, if ever I became of that happy number, I also must hear Him who "endured the cross, despising the shame ;" and must experience a willingness wrought in my heart, to fill up my measure of sufferings for the precious cause.

Soon after this time, I was permitted to share largely in the gospel labours of several of the Lord's anointed messengers ; who were wonderfully led to minister to my state, and proved that they were commissioned to preach the gospel of glad tidings to such as were seeking a city that hath foundations ; which I humbly trust was my situation. Among those who were thus made helpful to my poor soul, was my beloved friend William Matthews, of York Town, Pennsylvania, whose fatherly attention and notice, in so needful a season, will ever render the remembrance of him dear to me ; while preservation is mercifully granted to abide faithful to the requisitions of a gracious Creator.

When my mind became thus far awakened, and was seeking a better and more enduring substance than had heretofore been my experience, oh ! how was my soul often contrited before my heavenly Father, both in meetings and retirement at home : and he very frequently caused my cup to overflow, so that my heart was melted into such a state of humiliation before him for past offences, as to enable me frequently to cry unto him, that his eye might not spare, until all within me was brought into subjection unto his divine will. At this time I was favoured to receive much comfort in reading the Holy Scriptures, which I often took up when alone, to my consolation and encouragement. Then, deeply did I lament that any of my precious time had been spent in perusing publications of an unprofitable tendency ; such as plays and romances ; and I was made sensible that nothing I had ever been in the practice of, had so much alienated my mind from the love and fear of God, or led me so far from the simplicity of the pure truth, as books of this kind. How often did I wish I could warn the whole world of their pernicious effects, and especially the young people in our own society. Penning this remark brings to my remembrance, how, in an instant, I was entirely weaned from ever desiring again to look into a book of this description. It was by a few words expressed by a beloved friend, when I was about reading to her one night after we got up stairs, and were retiring to bed. She queried with me, and I believe under divine influence, " Dear

Mary, is such a subject likely to profit us upon our pillows?" The question so forcibly struck my mind, that I very willingly laid down the volume, and, to the best of my remembrance, I never more read a page in that, or any thing of the like kind. I have often thought those few words were indeed "like apples of gold in pictures of silver."*

In the fourth month of the year 1786, my dear father was removed from us by death, after an illness of several months; during which time my mind was often favoured with the consoling presence of him, who is strength in weakness to his dependant children. This enabled me to pass through that trying dispensation in a manner I could not have expected; yet, after the final close of my beloved earthly parent, it pleased my heavenly Father to try me with the loss of spiritual enjoyment also; and, for a long time, my poor mind was often in a very distressed situation, "Tossed with tempest, and not comforted."† Indeed this was a time of sorrow both within and without; for that day nine weeks on which my father expired, my dear sister Elizabeth Alexander, my brother Samuel's wife, breathed her last, and left a disconsolate husband and four tender children, besides many other near connections, to mourn her loss.

Thus bereaved of beloved relatives, my brother William and myself agreed to continue together in

* PROV. XXV. 11.

† ISAIAH LIV. 11.

our father's house; and my brother Samuel was favoured with the company and assistance of his wife's aunt, Mary Gurney, who, from that time, resided with him and his dear children. I believe she was made a blessing to many of us, while we were permitted to have her society amongst us; which was till the autumn of the year 1788, when, after having been out several weeks on religious service, she was taken ill at her cousin Joseph Cockfield's, at Upton, and, in a few days, departed this life, I fully believe, in peace with her God, having spent her last days in advocating his holy cause.*

Though a little out of the order of time, I may here observe, that on the 7th of 6th month, 1787, was my final parting with William Matthews and Rebecca Wright, gospel messengers of peculiar good to my mind.

To return to my own situation: My poor mind was long kept in a state of great inward want, and I was sometimes ready to conclude my God had forgotten to be gracious. In such seasons, I have been willing to offer up all unto him and his service, so that I might again taste of his goodness: and, in this time

* Among the extracts from letters, added to Sarah Grubb's journal, is one peculiarly descriptive of this our valued relative.—Dated 12th Month, 1788. See p. 373. N. York Edit.

of trial, I did give up many things which I believed he called for.

Whilst in this situation, I had sometimes to believe, that if I stood faithful, it would be required of me publicly to espouse that pure Cause, which, notwithstanding all my exercises, I could feel was more precious to me than the increase of any outward comforts; but the removal of my before-mentioned beloved friend, Mary Gurney, at such a juncture, was so great a trial of my faith and confidence, that I was almost ready to conclude it would now be impossible for me ever to break through; though I did earnestly covet resignation to the divine will therein. In this situation of mind I attended her burial, and though, I believe, at her grave, I might have publicly borne testimony of my belief in her happy change; yet, as I did not wilfully disobey what, I have since apprehended was a divine intimation, I did not feel much condemnation. It was some months after this before I again felt *as much* as I did at that time; yet, frequently was I in great doubt and uneasiness, often feeling, as I thought, something to communicate, when in religious opportunities; but fearing I should begin in the great work of public ministry, before the right time, I withheld speaking. At other times, both at meetings and at home, both by day and by night I was under very great exercise lest I should be entirely mistaken, and that what I felt should not be any right call to the ministry.

This was my situation one night in the beginning of the year 1789, when, after having lain a considerable time in close exercise of spirit, a light shined round my bed, and I heard a voice intelligibly say; "Thou art appointed to preach the Gospel." Immediately the light disappeared, and I was left in an awful, thankful frame of mind; esteeming it an intimation granted by Him, who alone knows the deep conflicts of spirit I then experienced, lest I should engage in his cause without his command. Yet, even after this mark of divine condescension to my poor doubting mind, being sincerely desirous of abiding the full time in the furnace preparatory for so important a work, it was many weeks before I opened my lips, in what I considered the work of the ministry. The first time, was in the fifth month of this year, in a religious opportunity in my brother Samuel's family, I believe, in nearly the following words: "When Peter in his vision, wherein he saw the sheet let down from heaven, with that great variety of living creatures, and heard a voice commanding him to kill and eat, refused fearing he should do wrong in so doing; he, after his refusal, heard the voice again saying unto him, What God hath cleansed or sanctified, that call not thou common."

After I had uttered these sentences, my soul was filled with the incomes of heavenly consolation to such a degree, as I never before had experienced, which I humbly received as a token of Divine

approbation for my evening's sacrifice. Indeed so quiet and peaceful was my mind for many days after, that I was ready to conclude "the bitterness of death was past ;"* that I never again should feel the distressing conflicts which I had long endured ; and that my having thus far surrendered my will to the divine will, would be accepted, and I never again might feel a necessity of the like nature. But I soon felt a similar engagement in meetings, though not with as much clearness and strength as that evening, and therefore did not venture to speak until it was equally strong.

About ten weeks after the before-mentioned time, on the first day of the week, and 26th of the 7th month, 1789, in our forenoon meeting, I felt a very powerful intimation to stand up and express a few words, and put out my hand to lay hold of the seat which stood before me ; but even then I drew back my hand and gave it up ; for which I felt much more condemnation than I ever had done before under like circumstances ; and went home in very great distress of mind, which I feared I should not be able to conceal from my brother William while I sat at dinner with him. Whether he did discover my situation or not, I cannot tell : but as soon as the table cloth was removed, I retired to my chamber, and there made covenant with Him, whom I sorrowfully felt I had offended by my omission, that if He

* 1 Sam. xv. 32.

would be mercifully pleased to try me in the afternoon, with some new opening, I would give up; fearing, if it were the same as in the morning, that I might move too much from my own feelings at that time, without a sufficient renewal of life. And, oh! the unspeakable condescension of a gracious Creator, when he sees the integrity of the heart. I had not been seated many minutes in meeting, before the petition of Caleb's daughter was brought so forcibly, with such clearness, and in such a confirming manner before me, that I could not doubt its being given me for communication: but it was so early in the meeting, I thought I must endeavour to bear my burden awhile, yet earnestly begged I might be enabled to speak in the right time. While I was under these awful impressions, a friend got up, and had a lively opportunity, though I knew not much of what he said; for indeed my own exercise at that time, seemed all I could attend to. As soon as he sat down, I stood up and began with the before-mentioned petition: "Thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water," and after commenting a little upon it, I sat down *full of peace*.

This was twelve or thirteen years after I first saw a prospect of receiving a call to the ministry, as I sat in a meeting at Woodbridge; and after this, which I then apprehended to be a clear intimation of the divine will concerning me, it was some years before I had any further serious impressions respecting

it. The transition from tribulation to joy which my mind experienced on my return home, from the afternoon meeting, was such as led me to crave of my heavenly Father, that he would be pleased to grant me ability to follow him faithfully in the way of his holy requirings, from time to time. For some weeks after my soul was often enabled secretly to praise the Lord, as on the banks of deliverance; which encouraged me to hope, notwithstanding all my foregoing omissions, that He who sees the bent and intent of every heart, knowing my exceeding great fear of going too fast, had passed by my offences, and was now confirming to my mind, that to serve him without reserve, was the way to ensure comfort here, as well as everlasting happiness hereafter. Indeed I fully believe, that while it is really a solid fear of running before the Lord sends, which keeps back any sacrifice he is calling for, especially in this important work, there is less danger in trying the fleece again and again, than in running too hastily forward; even when a living engagement is felt: but to be preserved from erring on either hand, is a blessing which can be witnessed only while the mind is engaged to keep near to its only sure director, the unerring principle of Truth, and submits to be unreservedly guided thereby.

From such considerations, I have often felt thankfulness raised in my heart, that while my mind was

under the weighty exercises which preceded my appearance in the ministry, and which I believe some of my feeling friends, in the vision of light, were permitted to behold, that they used such great caution in intimating the subject to me, as seldom to give me reason to suppose they had any apprehension of my real situation. I believe that minds thus circumstanced, are better left to the guidance of Him who begins the work, to carry it on, and bring forth fruit in his own season; even though, through fear or care, a state of jeopardy may be somewhat prolonged; rather than any injudicious interference of others, should bring the poor tribulated soul out of the preparatory furnace, before the appointed baptisms are fulfilled. I am fully aware, that the doubting mind may sometimes be rightly encouraged to obedience, by the countenance of those who have had larger experience of the great Master's dealings with his humble and truly-dependent followers; but I believe, beyond all doubt, that a much greater number have suffered by being injudiciously drawn forth, before the full accomplishment of all the dispensations which the Lord sees meet for them to pass through.

CHAPTER II.

1790 to 13th Month, 1793.

Her condition after appearing in the ministry.—Visit to a friend.—Acknowledged as a minister.—Visit to families at Woodbridge and Ipswich.—Norwich Quarterly Meeting.—Deep exercises of mind.—Beccles Monthly Meeting.—Bury Monthly Meeting.—Woodbridge Monthly Meeting.

In the course of the first twelve months after I opened my mouth in meetings, I was permitted to experience many different dispensations. Some of them were seasons of very great desertion of all good, which led me often to a close searching of heart, to know whether I kept pace with my heavenly Guide, or whether I ran before or staid behind him in my little religious movements. I think it was not often that my heart condemned me; but when it did, it was for omission rather than for commission: and oh! how did my soul often covet the blessing of resignation to the divine will, that I might be enabled to endure all the turnings and overturnings of his holy hand upon me; so that I might be thereby prepared to accomplish the work he should be pleased to assign me, in his house and family; if worthy to be esteemed the smallest of his dedicated servants.

In the autumn of this year, 1790, for many weeks, at times, I was brought into a secret engagement, and I trust I may say, according to my measure, travail of soul, on account of a friend in this county who, I fully believe, had been an anointed minister of the gospel; but through unwatchfulness, his brightness was much eclipsed. At length my feelings were so closely arrested, as to lead me to apprehend I should not get clear of the exercise I felt on his account, without going to pay him a visit, though many miles distant; which I made known to my brother Samuel, who kindly accompanied me, in the forepart of the 12th month. Although I know not that the visit availed much to the individual; yet I was favoured with strength to relieve my own mind, and came home in peace.

1791. In the fourth month of this year, I was recommended to our select monthly meeting as a minister in unity. This circumstance brought a very heavy exercise over my mind, fearing friends had not had sufficient proof of my religious movements, to warrant their noticing me after this manner; and earnest were my cries to Him, who I humbly hoped had put me forth in so awful a vocation, that he would be pleased to grant such a portion of the blessing of preservation, as to enable me to move forward without bringing any dishonour on his pure cause. And oh! may a care of this sort,

be ever the attendant of my mind, under all the various dispensations of an unerring Providence ; seeking more and more after ability, so to steer along through this probationary state, as that "neither principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, may be able to separate" my poor soul "from the *Love* of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Such a care is needful to preserve, from time to time, in unreserved obedience to all His divine requisitions.

In the eleventh month this year, I visited, in company with a committee of our monthly meeting, the families of friends in Woodbridge ; and though it was not much that was required of me, yet, in a few families, I felt my heart enlarged in gospel love, beyond what I had heretofore experienced ; and in the close was favoured to feel solid satisfaction. Some of the committee being about to engage in a similar visit at Ipswich, a week or two after, I thought I felt it my duty to unite with them again ; yet, many were my fears lest I should be mistaken in my feelings, thinking that possibly what I then felt, might arise only from a degree of sympathy with some of my beloved friends of the committee ; and, not being one myself, it seemed to require a clearer evidence than if I had been under the ap-

* Rom. viii. 38, 39.

pointment, though it was left open for any friend of the monthly meeting to join, who felt the weight of the service. For one so little experienced in the important work to make a second attempt, under such circumstances, I thought would be looked upon to be rather forward; and indeed I sometimes feared, that my getting through at Woodbridge with a good degree of satisfaction, might too readily encourage me to go forth again, without a sufficient commission from *Him* who putteth forth his own, and goeth before them. Therefore I coveted permission to try the fleece both wet and dry, which I think was mercifully granted; and I joined my friends in a humble hope, that whether it should please my great and gracious Master to employ me in advocating his precious cause, or permit me silently to visit the pure seed in the hearts of his people, I might be able to say in sincerity, "Thy will be done." Abundant cause have I to acknowledge the goodness of an All-powerful Creator, who proved himself to be strength in my weakness, and granted the riches of his love to be eminently shed amongst us, in divers families; whereby he mercifully evinced that he was both able and willing to be unto his dependant children, a present help in the needful time. A portion of that peace which surpasseth every other consideration, was felt in my return home; and raised a tribute of thankfulness in my heart unto Him, to whom I desire ever to render the praise of his own works.

In the latter end of this year, in company with my brother Dykes Alexander, and two other friends, I attended Norwich quarterly meeting; and though we were not permitted to experience any great aboundings of heavenly good; yet I trust we were strengthened by the Shepherd of Israel, to visit the oppressed seed in captivity in that city. After the meeting closed, on fourth day afternoon, the 28th of 12th month, we left the place in peace, and went to Yoxford that night. The next morning we went to Woodbridge, and attended the burial of our much-valued friend, Martha Steward, there that day; in the evening went to Ipswich; and on sixth day morning I came to Needham.

For some weeks after my return home, my mind was, at times, richly replenished with the incomes of my heavenly Father's love, so that I could indeed "rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of my salvation."* But, alas! when a very different dispensation was permitted, which was my experience by far the greater part of the year 1792, then, oh then! I found it hard work, and many times altogether impossible to acknowledge with the prophet, that "although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no

* HAB. iii. 18.

herd in the stalls : yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."* Fully convinced I was of the truth of David's declaration, where he says, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power:† and, in *that day only*, I saw it was that the poor frail mind could be brought into a state of resignation, to receive its appointed portion of suffering for the precious cause sake. Yea, I was sometimes mercifully enabled to see, in this time, wherein all sensible refreshment was withheld from my soul, that great caution was necessary not to meddle with any forbidden fruit, or set up any graven image in the absence of my spiritual Moses.

Sometimes, in the anguish of my heart, I have been strengthened to cry unto Him who knoweth the secrets of all hearts, "Though thou slay me, yet will I trust in thee:‡ And in such seasons it has been shown me, I trust, in the vision of light, that if ever I knew a full release from the present bondage, it must be by going back to the place I had once left in peace, even to the city of Norwich, and there visit my friends, from house to house ; though I might thereby become a "spectacle to angels and to men."§ This was indeed humiliating to the natural part ; yet I can honestly say that my mind was many times brought into a state of resignation thereto, if I might but be favoured to have a suitable companion in the work ; and, after many months of

* † HAB. iii. 17, 18. ‡ PSAL. cx. 3. † JOS xiii. 15. § 1 COR. iv. 9.

close exercise, I believed this would be granted, when the full time should come to enter upon the engagement. Here I was permitted to leave the subject for a while, and my mind became, in some degree, relieved from its former exercises; so that I was enabled to engage in some little services at and about home. This I esteemed a mercy granted by my heavenly Father, having "lain long among the pots,"* cast off and useless, and often been ready to query, "Can these bones live?"†

About this time, at our summer quarterly meeting hold at Woodbridge, in the 6th month, 1793, three other friends from the women's meeting, and myself, were appointed to visit the monthly meeting of Beccles, and the preparative meetings constituting it. A committee of men friends having been previously nominated to visit all the monthly meetings in the county, some of them united with a part of our committee to Beccles, in the 8th month following. My friends Hannah Evans and Martha Brewster, were my female companions; and we were favoured to get through beyond our own expectation; yet, after my return home, I did not feel that evidence of divine acceptance which had sometimes been my experience, at the close of a little act of dedication. I was however desirous of dwelling quietly in this condition, believing that when He

* PSAL. lxxviii. 13. † EZEK. xxxvii. 3.

who knows best what is best for us, is pleased so to favour, he can yield the desired confirmation of peace; and to be kept in a state of waiting, is often a profitable, though to the creaturely part, a humbling dispensation. Therefore, when it is consistent with the great Master's will to withhold the precious proof of acceptance, for any little acts of obedience, it is most assuredly his servants' duty to seek after submission to him, and ability to trust in his infinite wisdom for the good convenient; remembering the counsel of the good Counsellor, where he says, "When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."*

As the committee of men's friends had not, previously to our quarterly meeting, held in the 9th month, proceeded in their visit further than with us, it appeared most satisfactory to the women's meeting to continue our committee, which some of us willingly acquiesced with, not feeling our minds rightly liberated from the work; and we were left at liberty to unite with the men's committee in all, or any part of the remaining engagement, as way might open for it. In the 11th month we went through the monthly meeting of Bury: no small addition to the weight of the prospect to me, was the loss of the company of

* LUKE xvii. 10.

my beloved friend Martha Brewster, who was at that time, very unwell. My female companions were my friends Hannah Evens and Anna Perry, and we, as well as the men friends, were all of us striplings; yet I believe we were favoured to experience the mark of discipleship, in that we had love one to another; and we were enabled to move on harmoniously together. In the close of our visit we were favoured to feel a degree of that sweet quietude of mind which is not at our command; and, therefore, I trust, it might be received as a token of divine acceptance; and some of our hearts were filled with thankful admiration, for the goodness and gracious condescension of our Heavenly Helper.

In the 12th month we went through Woodbridge monthly meeting, ended our mission peacefully, and carried a written report of our proceedings to the next quarterly meeting, held the seventeenth of the same month.

CHAPTER III.

1st Month, 1794, to 10th Month, 1795.

Visits Norwich &c.—Decease of an individual at Needham.—William Bleckley's decease.—Burial of M. Crowley.—Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire—Lincolnshire, and York quarterly meeting.

Very soon after the close of the visit to the monthly meetings, &c. my mind became again deeply impressed with the before-mentioned prospect of visiting the families of friends at Norwich; and with such an increased weight, that I believed the time for entering into that engagement was drawing nigh. Ardently did I crave of my Almighty Father that he would be pleased to guide me in every step that I took concerning it, and to give me some undoubted evidence of the right time to move therein, and of my right companion in the work. And I think I did repeatedly see, when my mind, I humbly trust, was brought in some degree under his instruction, that I was to unite with a friend herein, who about this time had a certificate from York monthly meeting, for visiting the cities of Norwich, London and Bristol. I laid my prospect of visiting the families of friends at Norwich, before our monthly meeting in the beginning of the first month, 1794, and obtained the concurrence of my friends for the same.

On 3d day, the 21st of the 1st month, we commenced our visits in that place, by having sittings in two families. The next day we attended the burial of a young man at Tasburgh, which proved a solemn meeting; and I believe, to some minds, it was an instructive and awfully awakening time; a day wherein the invitation of the spirit of Christ, was renewed plenteously and preciousy, to some who had long been halting as between two opinions.

We dined at Thomas Broadbank's, and returned to Norwich in the afternoon, where we had two sittings more that evening. If ever I knew what it was to be "baptized for the dead,"* I think I did experience it in the course of my visit through this place. It was a season of very close exercise. Sometimes I was shut up in silence for several sittings together, in great poverty of spirit; and sometimes when utterance was granted, but little relief was obtained; so that I was ready often to doubt whether all that I had ever felt, concerning this engagement, was not a delusion of the great adversary of mankind: Yea, I was fearful lest I had put my hand unbidden to the Lord's work, and, Uzzah like, might fall a victim to the displeasure of an offended Creator. But, blessed be the name of Israel's God, and I humbly trust my holy Leader, when I had filled up such a portion of

* 1 Cor. xv. 29.

suffering for his pure seed's sake, as he saw meet to appoint, he was pleased to say, "It is enough,"* and, "to proclaim liberty to the captive; and the opening of the prison to that which was bound."† Then I was, in some families, enabled to tell of the Lord's gracious dealings with my soul, thereby endeavouring to persuade others, to inlist under the banner of the Lamb, who is also "the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David,"‡ who was found worthy, and still is, "to take the book, and open the seals thereof." Thus, notwithstanding all the probationary seasons allotted me in this city, the supporting and sustaining arm of never-failing power, was experienced to be near, at times, to my humbling admiration; and, on leaving the place, I was permitted to receive a little portion of "the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."§

At different times, whilst we were at Norwich, we visited three neighbouring meetings, besides the burial before mentioned, viz. on first day the 2d of the second month, Wymondham; Lammas week day meeting on fourth day the 5th; and Lammas monthly meeting, held at North Walsham, on second day the tenth of the same month.

We left Norwich on fourth day, the 12th of the

* 2 SAM. XXIV. 16.

† ISAIAH lxi. 1.

‡ REV. v. 5.

§ ISAIAH lxi 3.

2d month, and went to Tasburgh. On fifth day, the 13th, my brother William met us at Tasburgh, and we all attended the monthly meeting there. Next day, the 14th, we had meetings at Tivetshall and Diss. On seventh day, the 15th, my companion, my brother W. A. and myself, went to Beccles; and visiting the meetings of friends at Pakefield, Leiston, Woodbridge, and Ipswich on our way, we arrived, on fifth day the 20th of the second month, at Needham, in time for the week day meeting. On the 21st and 22d my companion and myself having felt a little engagement to sit with some of the families constituting this meeting, we proceeded, and were favoured to feel satisfaction in our movements therein; and had to believe, it was a time of renewed visitation of heavenly goodness to some minds, who had been long called to work in the Lord's vineyard; the vineyard of *their own hearts*.

After visiting a few meetings in Essex, my brother William and myself returned home, where I was favoured to receive a peaceful release from the little field of exercise and labour which I trust had been by divine appointment allotted me. And, at times, I felt gladness of heart, that I had been permitted to suffer with the pure suffering seed; and could say, with the psalmist, "Gracious is the Lord and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. The

Lord preserveth the simple : I was brought low, and he helped me."*

First day, the 30th of third month. This was an awful day to me. It was the final close of poor——. He was once of our society, and my mind had often deeply felt on his account, believing the Lord had long been inviting him, to "give diligence to make his calling and election sure,"† before the solemn message was sent unto him of, "Thou shalt die, and not live,"‡ And thankful I was, that we had attended to the little pointing of duty, in stepping into some families here, after our return from Norwich; believing, to this poor man, it was permitted to be a season of peculiar visitation from the Most High; and it appeared to dwell with him to his end; which was about five weeks afterwards. He was ill only two days. His wife remarked, after his removal, that from the time of our visit, he had appeared quite an altered man; very solid and thoughtful; and that she had several times found him in his chamber with his bible, a circumstance which, I think she said, she had never before observed. When I called at his house, a little after he expired, I did believe, from the precious quiet I was permitted to feel, that his spirit was received into rest, which humbled my soul, and all within me, before Him, whose "tender mercies are over all his

* PSAL. CXVI. 5, 6. † 2 PET. I. 10. ‡ 2 KINGS XX. 1.

works."* At the burial we were favoured with a solemn meeting.

In the twelfth month this year, I attended the interment of our friend William Bleckley, of Long Stratton, in Norfolk. It was a time of divine favour; many hearts were humbled, and greatly lamented the church's loss, in the removal of one, who was engaged to maintain the law and the testimony given to us, as a people, to support. I was with him several times within the last few months of his life, at different meetings, which were seasons of solid satisfaction to my mind at the time, and I could now review them with comfort. Much did I desire that those who felt their loss in his removal, and particularly his near relatives, might be willing to follow him as he had endeavoured to follow Christ. I believe it was a day of merciful visitation to several of his beloved offspring; who, I trust, have since been made sensible of the truth of David's declaration where he says: "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation."†

1795. In the forepart of this year, in company with two of my brothers, I attended the burial of my beloved friend Mary Crowley. She departed this life on the 17th of the second month; and was

* Psal. cxlv. 9

† Psal. lxxviii. 5.

interred after a meeting at Devonshire House, London, in friends' burial ground, near Bunhill-Fields, on the 24th of the same month. After my return home, though it was not a journey which I considered in the line of religious duty ; yet it was one, I could look back upon with a peaceful calm, and with thankfulness to the great Author of every comfort ; rejoicing that I endeavoured to pay the last tribute of affection to an endeared friend, removed a little before me, from the conflicts of time, I humbly hope, to the joys of eternity.

Soon after my return from the above mentioned journey, my mind became, at times, closely brought into exercise, under the renewal of a prospect, of visiting the meetings of friends in the quarterly meeting of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire ; accompanied with a belief, that the time was drawing near, in which I must confess it to my friends, and request their concurrence ; and that without any knowledge of a companion. This increased the weight of the prospect ; but before I had opened the subject to any one, our friends Ann Tuke and Rachel Fowler, came into this county, on a religious visit ; the latter expecting to leave Atn after attending our quarterly meeting, and that for Norfolk and Norwich, in the sixth month this year. Finding that A. T.'s prospect was to go from these counties directly into Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire,

way opened with satisfactory clearness for me to propose uniting with her. Accordingly I laid my prospect before our monthly meeting, and obtained the concurrence of my friends to join her through that quarterly meeting, and elsewhere as way might open. I met her at Bury on the 13th of the 7th month; and accompanied her to some meetings in this county, both among friends, and, in some places, where the inhabitants were generally invited. In Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, we visited all the meetings of friends; we also had many meetings in different places with people of other persuasions; amongst whom we met with many well-disposed, serious, seeking minds.

After we got through that quarterly meeting, not seeing my way clear to return home, I continued with my beloved friend through Lincolnshire; where we visited all the meetings of friends, and had many public meetings, as in the other counties. We afterwards continued together to York, where my brother William met me, and we staid the quarterly meeting there in the 9th month; and, with A. Tuke, visited a few meetings in that county. We also attended the marriage of Joshua and Elizabeth Wheeler, on our return to York; after which my brother and myself left York again, Henry and Ann Tuke accompanying us to Lincoln quarterly meeting; where we parted. They returned to

York, and we came home, where we arrived on seventh day the 10th of tenth month, and were favoured to meet our connexions well.

Thankfulness was raised in my heart, for the many mercies bestowed by a bountiful giver: although many and various were the trials permitted to attend me, during this separation from my outward habitation. Some were of a nature, wherein patience and resignation were closely tried, so that I sometimes was almost ready to conclude, I had lost all power of ever again experiencing ability, even to lift up my eyes to heaven, and crave the blessing of preservation for my own soul. Yet after a dispensation of this sort, through merciful condescension, light did sometimes arise out of obscurity, and the darkness, before experienced, became as the noon day: so that through all, at my return home, I could set up my Ebenezer and acknowledge, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me."*

* 1 SAM. vii. 12.

CHAPTER IV.

22d of 11th Month, 1795, to the 8th of 2d Month, 1796.

A meeting at Walton—Debenham—Writes to a friend imprisoned on account of tithes.

Some friends feeling their minds drawn towards the inhabitants of Walton in this county ; our monthly meeting appointed a meeting to be held there, on first day the 22d of the eleventh month this year. It proved a season owned in a very precious manner, by the great Master of assemblies ; and some of our hearts were bowed in humble thankfulness, under a sense of his gracious goodness, and returned home in peace.

1796. For several of the latter weeks in last year, my mind was very closely tried, with an apprehension of its being required of me, to have a meeting with the inhabitants of Debenham in this county. As the impression appeared to ripen, it proved a very weighty circumstance to me, not knowing of any one who felt a similar concern. I was brought under great exercise, lest I should move in this important work, in a false zeal, unbidden by the great and good Minister of ministers ; and I earnestly coveted to receive some undoubted evidence of its rectitude, before I attempted to mention it to my friends.

This was mercifully granted, and the day and hour for holding the meeting pointed out with such clearness, that I could not doubt the evidence received. At our monthly meeting, in the first month this year, I laid the subject before my friends; who affectionately sympathized with me in my prospect; and, feeling unity therewith, the men's meeting appointed a committee, to provide a suitable place for holding the meeting in, on the 19th of this month. The committee, with several other friends, accompanied me there at the time fixed. My brother Samuel and my dear friend Martha Brewster, were of the number, and were fellow-labourers in the gospel mission. We were favoured to have an open meeting, and I think I may say, parted with the people in much good will; some of them, I believe, having been reached, under the prevalency of the power of the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls. My mind was permitted to experience, for some weeks after, a sabbath of rest; which was cause of thankful rejoicing, having previously past some time of deep anxiety; yet, I think I was not insensible, under this change of situation, of the necessity of watching, lest I should take my flight upon the sabbath day. I believe that after the mind has been strengthened to perform any act of dedication, which yields a portion of peace, there is great need to guard against erring on this hand. Yea, surely! under every dispensation of a gracious and all-wise providence,

there is occasion to crave ability to maintain a constant dependance upon Him, and on the guidance of his good Spirit.

When at York in the autumn of last year, I visited several friends imprisoned, in the castle there, for refusing to pay some priests' demands. Not fully clearing my mind, at that time, of the sympathy and solicitude I felt for them, and, after my return home, receiving an acceptable letter from one of their company, I wrote an answer; from which the following is an extract, dated the 8th of the 2d month this year.

“ Dear friend !

Having frequently felt my mind bended towards thyself, and thy companions in outward bonds, since I passed a little time with you in your prison house, it was very grateful to receive thy token of kind remembrance. It renewed my sympathy towards thyself in particular, believing thou art often secretly coveting that the precious cause, for which you suffer, may not be let fall, in the smallest degree, through unwatchfulness, in any of those who have so avowedly espoused it, as to submit themselves to be separated from their nearest outward connections, rather than bawlk the testimony given them to bear to the great Minister

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of ministers: without whose divine aid, none can really profit the people by their ministry. And oh that all you who have thus given up your names to reproach, may be willing to remember, that there is need to seek after daily bread, even in your obscure dwelling; and to feel the sustaining arm of never-failing Power to be near, not only to support the mind in a cheerful submission to the present trial of faith and patience, but also to afford a portion of strength to go in and out before the people, within the walls of that place. Many of them, I am ready to believe, from my past and present feelings, are looking towards your little company; and if all are concerned singly to eye the captain of our salvation, your suffering may tend to the exaltation of the precious name of Jesus in the hearts of some of them. I have also believed, dear friends, that it is the gracious design of our Holy Head, if this is your individual concern, so to sanctify this afflictive dispensation to some of you, as thereby to enlarge your inward acquaintance and communion with Himself; yea, to increase your store of durable riches and righteousness. And thou, my friend, with whom I am particularly corresponding; situated as thou art, amidst such a mixture of irreligious characters, as inhabit the different apartments in your prison; I make no doubt but thy feeling mind is, at times, introduced into spiritual bondage; and perhaps darkness may be the covering thereof, in sympathy

with the pure seed in the hearts of others ; and thy conflicts and exercises may be many and various. Notwithstanding this may be thy frequent experience, I trust thou art, at other times, admitted to that peaceful retreat, where the Lord's table is spread with the dainties of his own house, and which is an ample compensation for many deep probations. And I believe thou wilt be favoured with a continuance of the like sustaining power : for truly he is not wanting in compassion to his depending dedicated children ; but, unto such, a morsel of food will be handed in due season."*

* Of this friend, Joseph Brown, there is a very pleasant account ; see *Piety Promoted*, part 10, by J. G. Bevan, 1810.

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CHAPTER V.

9th Month, 1796, to the 3d Month, 1798.

Her brother William's marriage, &c.—Visits some meetings in company with S. Harrison and S. Birkbeck.—Deep conflict of mind.—Visit to the Principality of Wales, &c.—Yearly meeting at Welsh Pool.—Coalbrook Dale.—Left her sister Ann at London yearly meeting,—Joined her again at Plaistow.—Visits Herfordshire, &c.—Macclesfield quarterly meeting, Wrexham in Wales.—Account of their visit to the Principality—Melksham—is ill there—goes to Cirencester and returns home.—A dream.—Settles in her new habitation.

In the ninth month this year, 1796, my brother William married my beloved friend Ann Tuke. Previously to their marriage, they kindly proposed my continuing a resident in their family after it ; but, on considering the subject, I felt most easy to decline their affectionate offer : though not without an intention of staying with them for some months after their union ; which I accordingly did.

Our friend Sarah Harrison, of Philadelphia, accompanied by Sarah Birkbeck, of Settle, in Yorkshire, was, in the latter part of this year, in our country. Besides visiting all the meetings of friends, she

had many among other people, and divers of them where no friends meetings had been remembered before. Having looked towards some of the places with a similar prospect, before her coming this way, it was relieving to my mind, to have the opportunity of accompanying her, and her companion, to several of the said meetings; and also to a few in Essex. In the third month, 1797, I met them again, in Essex, was with them at two or three more public meetings, and was favoured in the close to feel peace.

Very soon after these engagements, my mind had to experience much inward want, indeed to pass through a season of deep conflict, and of sore exercise; wherein it seemed to me as though my soul's enemy was let loose, with an unlimited power to buffet me at his will. Never had I known my faith and confidence in Infinite Goodness so nearly overcome before. Almost continually, for several weeks, was my mind in a state comparable to being "Tossed with tempest, and not comforted,"* and left without one grain of lively hope, which might have been as an anchor to the soul. Some of my near connections were sensible that my situation was a trying one, yet none knew how bitter was the anguish I felt, but He who knows all things. My health became impaired, and, at times, I was ready

* ISAIAH liv. 11.

to conclude I should sink away under the exercise I felt; though without any degree of cheering hope that my sufferings would end with my natural life. Could I have once believed this, oh! how should I have coveted such a release. But, peradventure, had *this* belief been experienced, I might have felt less ability to have sought after patient resignation to bear the present trial; though I am fully convinced, I was often too apt to cast away my confidence in holy help; and not enough careful to abide at all times on the watch-tower; nor always willing enough to stay in the ward this whole dark night. Alas! how hardly does the creaturely part bend to suffering.

During this season of close exercise with me, my sister Ann at our monthly meeting in the third month, opened a prospect she had, of paying a religious visit to the Principality of Wales, and counties adjacent. For several years, I had had a similar prospect, and, some months before, had believed we should unite in this journey; yet, now, all former views were closed, and I could see no way to move forward; and earnestly did I covet to be preserved from warming myself by the sparks of my own kindling, or putting forth my hand unbidden in so important a work: yet having passed through some very trying seasons, I was made willing thereby to be any thing or nothing, so that I might again

experience, "the Lord to lift up his countenance upon me, and give me peace."* When I felt any thing like a willingness of this sort, oh ! how did the cruel accuser endeavour to insinuate, that I had already overacted my part, in being too forward to lend a hand in what I had thought the Lord's work ; and thereby had incurred his displeasure, wounded my friends, and brought this state of spiritual death over my own mind : but boundless mercy was pleased now, sometimes to afford a little portion of his calming influence, which, in some degree, stilled the boisterous waves and enabled me, at times, to look forward with hope, that I should again be permitted to experience the animating rays of "the Sun of righteousness,"† to dispel the thick darkness in which my poor mind had been, and still was enveloped.

In this situation I went to our monthly meeting in the fourth month, where I ventured to inform my friends what my former views had been, and that within a short time they had appeared to be reviving, but I thought them still so faint, I desired to cast myself entirely upon them to judge for me. This I did under a greater sense of weakness than I had ever opened any thing of the like nature before ; yet it so far made its way with the meeting, as to get a

* NUMB. vi. 26. † MAL. iv. 2.

liberation at that time, for me to visit the Principality of Wales, and counties adjacent.

My sister Ann and myself, left home together, accompanied by my brother William, on the 16th of the fourth month, and went to Bury ; intending for the Welch yearly meeting, to be held the following week, at Welchpool, in Montgomeryshire. On our way we passed through Kettering, in Northamptonshire, and Coalbrook Dale, in Shropshire, and attended meetings there. On third day, the 25th of 4th month, we got to Welchpool ; and on fourth, fifth, and sixth days was held the yearly meeting there. At the close thereof, not seeing our way as we had expected, to proceed in our visit to the Principality, we concluded to return to Coalbrook Dale, and accordingly got back to Shrewsbury on seventh day. My sister stopped by the way to have a meeting that afternoon, at a small village we passed through in going ; but, finding myself very unwell, and not feeling any thing in my own mind for the meeting, I went on ; and left her in company with our dear friends Deborah Darby, R. Young, and others.

On first day we attended a morning meeting at Shrewsbury, in which I was favoured to feel a little strength, to relieve my mind, of an exercise I had felt for some individuals then present whom I had seen, and felt for before at Welchpool. In the evening we had a public meeting, which for a

considerable time was very exercising, yet in the close afforded some satisfaction. On second day, we came back to Coalbrook Dale. Third day, we attended the week-day meeting there, in which neither of us had any thing to communicate; but in the course of the meeting I thought I saw clearly, that we must go from house to house among them; and, after meeting, I mentioned it to my sister, who I then found, had had a similar prospect.

This evening we had a public meeting at a neighbouring village. From fourth day the 3d of the fifth month, to fourth day the 10th of the same, in company with our beloved friend R. Young, we visited the families of friends in the meetings of Newdale and Coalbrook Dale, in which my brother, who was still with us, united; and his company and help were very acceptable to us. A few sittings I was prevented attending from indisposition; and in some others I sat under great suffering, both of body and mind, so much so that I was, at times, ready to doubt the rectitude of my having left home; yet I had, at others, the satisfaction of seeing my beloved companions were rightly engaged, which tended to bear up my drooping mind; having been in some sort the means of encouraging them to give up to this service. Though, in the performance thereof, I was but of little help to them; yet, in the close, I believe none of us had cause to repent giving

up to what we had apprehended to be a required duty. Fifth day the 11th, I staid at Coalbrook Dale, being very unwell; and my sister had a public meeting at a place at a short distance, and returned to me after it.

Sixth day. We had not, either of us, been able to come at any satisfactory clearness respecting our future movements, till this morning, when I thought a little light arose in my mind, with a pointing towards Cheshire, which we were glad to accept. Our dear friends D. Darby and R. Young intending to set out this afternoon, for London yearly meeting, and having appointed a public meeting to be held this evening at Bridgenorth, we accompanied them there, expecting the next day to part with them at that place; and take meetings from thence in our way into Cheshire, and so into Wales. But my sister not feeling easy to part with them there, we went on with them till second day, and parted with them at Campden.

After this we again moved on towards Wales, and for a few days pretty satisfactorily; till my sister's mind became so closely arrested for the approaching yearly meeting to be held in London, that it seemed safest to turn about, and endeavour to get there as early as we could, with taking meetings in our way.*

* To be thus led about, and so frequently turned from the object at which they were aiming, as was on several occa-

We arrived in London two days after the commencement of the yearly meeting; but I did not feel my mind at all bound to it, and still found my health, at times, much affected, therefore, after staying one day in London, I returned home where I passed about ten days in peace, and found my health much recruited.

On second day the fifth of sixth month, I left home again and went to Colchester, where I met my brother William, who had parted with sister Ann that morning, at or near London, and was then on his way home. On third day evening I met my sister at Plaistow. Sixth day we left the neighbourhood of London, and went into Hertfordshire, agreeably to a prospect I had before I left home this time: having expected it might be right for us to take a few meetings in that county, and from thence proceed pretty directly for Wales. But our views were again protracted; for after we got into that quarterly meeting, my sister felt her mind engaged to go

sions, their experience in this journey, proved no small trial to my beloved sister; yet, I have reason to believe, this humiliating dispensation, was peculiarly and lastingly instructive to her mind. To move in a feeling of weakness, and with such a portion of light, as could not reflect its beams on distant objects, but only just mark the present step with a safe degree of clearness, though very trying to the creature, teaches humble and full dependence on the Creator.

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through it, and also to visit some other of the mid-land counties, previously to our entering Wales.

Though I did not feel my mind so much bound to this prospect, yet I could not see my way to leave her; and therefore thinking it most consistent with gospel order, we unitedly addressed our monthly meeting for further credentials, and obtained the concurrence of our friends at home, to proceed as in the openings of truth might appear right.*

After visiting divers counties, on the 13th and 14th of the ninth month, we attended the quarterly meeting held at Macclesfield, for Cheshire and Staffordshire. There we opened our prospect of visiting the Principality of Wales; hoping some of our brethren might feel bound to accompany us; expecting to be engaged in public meetings in many parts very distant from any friends. And our much-valued friend Joseph Storrs, from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, being present, felt a willingness to accompany us; as did two friends of that quarterly meeting, George Jones and Olive Sims, who all met us at Chester, on the 23d.

* Their peculiar situation excited much sympathy in the monthly meeting; and being attended with a feeling of near unity with their extended concern, their friends were induced to give them such a certificate as would fully liberate them to any service in this land.

EDITOR.

On the 25th we entered Wales, at the place I had had a prospect of more than four months before, when we were at Coalbrook Dale ; and that evening had a meeting there, viz. Wrexham in Denbighshire. This meeting was large ; and I believe there was a great variety of states among the people then gathered ; some of whom were seriously disposed. Indeed I think in the future movements through this Principality, in a more general way, we met with a larger proportion of religious, seeking minds, than in most of the counties we visited in England. Yet many even of those, we had often to fear, were too much seeking the living among the dead ; not enough inward in their search after durable riches ; nor enough acquainted with the one essential baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire ; which, if suffered to operate, would consume all that is of an unsubstantial nature. However, to meet with here and there one who was so far submitting to bear the cross of Christ, as to become willing to follow him, not only out of many of the vanities of the world, but also out of many unsubstantial rites and ceremonies, and who was seeking him, where alone he is to be found, in the secret of the heart ; was consoling to our often drooping minds. I trust, some there are, who, if they are faithful to the day of small things, will, in due time, be made rulers over more ; know their spiritual borders enlarged, and their acquaintance with the beloved of souls increased. That this may become their happy experience, is what I often coveted when

with them, and oft-times since, when far distant from them.

We were in Wales, about eight weeks, were in all the counties both of North and South Wales ; and, besides visiting the few meetings of friends, had upwards of forty public meetings, many of them in places where it could not be remembered that any friends meetings had been held before. We very generally met with civil treatment from the inhabitants ; and travelled nearly eight hundred and fifty miles in that mountainous country.

Soon after we got into Wales, for nearly two weeks, at times, I was very unwell in my health ; whereby I was prevented attending two public meetings on the Isle of Anglesea, and two meetings of friends on a first day at Llwyndw in Merionethshire. Here our whole company was detained several days at the house of our kind friend Henry Owen, on account of my indisposition : But after a little rest there, I was enabled to go through the remaining part of this close travel in good health. My dear sister was favoured to experience a continuance of health during the whole time ; but, near the close, she was permitted to know a very trying depression of spirits, so much so as nearly to disqualify her for any public service, which greatly added to my trials : yet I was mercifully strengthened to keep up both in

body and mind, to the end of our engagements in that Principality.

When we had finished our visit in Wales, I believe, in sympathy with her, I soon got into the same situation ; so that it seemed safest for us to leave a few meetings we had once expected to take in Herefordshire, and go directly from Leominster, in that county, to Melksham, in Wiltshire. Our dear brother Samuel and his daughter Lucy, were there, on a visit to his daughter Martha ; who a few weeks before had been married to Thomas Jeffreys of that place. We arrived at their house on first day evening, the 26th of the eleventh month. Our kind companions left us at different times ; O. Sims at Caermarthen in South Wales, on the 30th of the tenth month ; G. Jones at Leominster, on the 23d of the eleventh month ; and J. Storrs after we got to Melksham.

Very soon after we got to Melksham, my mind was much relieved from the deep depression I had felt for some days previously to our getting there : but my sister was rather longer before she experienced the same relief ; yet, in a few days, she was favoured also to feel the depression much removed, and a pointing in her mind towards Warminster, a place in the neighbourhood, at which she had missed having a public meeting when she was in the county a considerable time before. The meeting was ap-

pointed on sixth day evening, the 1st of the twelfth month, which I attended, and we were accompanied by our dear brother S. A. In this meeting and after it, I was very unwell. We got back to Melksham the next day, where I took some suitable medicine ; which did not afford so much relief as to enable me to attend their meeting on first day.

In the evening my brother finding me more unwell, was desirous of my taking some medical advice ; which I submitted to for his and the rest of my relations' satisfaction.

That night I was very ill indeed ; sometimes I was almost ready to conclude it might be the final close of all things here ; especially when I considered the deep conflict of mind which both my sister and myself had lately experienced ; and that my mind had been entirely relieved from any further prospect of religious service ever since I left Wales ; not only during that very trying dispensation, but also now, when favoured with a very different one ; wherein all was serenity and peace. In this situation had it not been for the trial I apprehended it would be to my dear niece, Martha Jeffreys to have a circumstance so awful take place under her roof, so soon after her settlement there ; I could willingly, yea, I think I may say, gladly have exchanged mortality for immortality at that time ; if it had been consistest with

the good pleasure of Him in whom is all power. He is able to cause even a sick bed to become pleasant; yea, desirable, if in that situation the poor finite understanding is more expanded, and the mind more quickened to behold the marvellous dealings of an all-wise Creator! This I think I can with humble gratitude acknowledge was, at times, my experience on this bed of sickness: and I was enabled to desire, whether life or death should be my portion, that *His will* might be done. However, after a few days I got so much better, as to think of moving from Melksham, when my brother and sister were at liberty so to do, who, during my illness, had engaged together in visiting the families of friends there.

After taking an affectionate leave of our kind relations, who had very tenderly cared for me in my illness, we all left their house on fourth day the 13th, and went to Cirencester in Gloucestershire; where we were kindly received by our friends Samuel and Sarah Bowley. The next morning my brother Samuel and his daughter Lucy, set off for home, and left my sister and myself there. Though I was favoured to bear travelling the day before, twenty-seven miles, with less fatigue than might have been expected; yet, after having parted with my brother and niece, I was that day very unwell. Continuing so, and not feeling any command to go forth again into the field of labour, I believed it was safest for

me to decline attending any of the meetings in that neighbourhood, with my sister, who left me for a few days, and, accompanied by Ann Bowley, visited some places adjacent and returned to me again.

As I did not improve in my health by longer rest, but rather grew weaker, we thought it best to inform our relations at home how we were circumstanced; and my brother William came to us at very short notice, intending to continue with his wife till she saw her way clear to return home. My dear brother and sister D. and H. Alexander very kindly came to us in a few days after him, intending to accompany me home as speedily as my very weak situation would admit of my travelling. On fourth day, the 3d of the first month, 1798, my brothers and sisters, and myself, all left Cyrencester, where I had been very affectionately nursed for three weeks, at the house of my kind friends before mentioned, and went to Burford. The next day W. and A. A. left me there; and the day following, accompanied by my brother Dykes and his wife, I went twenty-nine miles further on my way home. On the 9th we reached Watworth, where I was taken more unwell again, having rather mended in travelling till this time: and was detained there till seventh day the 13th, at the house of our friends Richard and Jane Harris: who, with their whole family, manifested much affectionate kindness, of which I desire ever to retain a grateful

remembrance. On third day the 16th, we reached Needham; where my mind was favoured to partake of a portion of enriching peace; and a tribute of thankful acknowledgment was raised in my heart to the great Dispenser of ever good.

My health gradually improved from this time; yet it was some months before I fully regained my usual strength.

One night while I was ill at Cirencester, I dreamed that I had departed this life, and was admitted into happiness; but I met with only one whom I knew or had ever known in the body, and she, I was told, was just admitted, and was to continue there, for she had finished her day's work; but as I had not, I must return to the body, and if faithful to what was manifested from time to time, I should be admitted again when the work appointed me to do was fully accomplished. My mind being awfully impressed with what had occurred in my sleep, in the course of the next day I told it to Sarah Bowley. Very soon after, we heard that the friend whom I had seen in my dream was very dangerously ill; and, before I got home, I was informed of her decease; and I have no reason to doubt but she is admitted into everlasting rest and peace. Oh, that the blessing of preservation may be my experience, that so the place prepared may be happily mine, when time to me shall be no more!

At our monthly meeting in the third month, my sister Ann and myself gave up our certificates. And the day following, viz. on fourth day the seventh of the third month, 1798, I entered into my present habitation: which was mercifully permitted to be a very peaceful home, for some weeks after I first settled therein.

CHAPTER VI.

5th Month, 1798, to the 11th Month, 1800.

London yearly meeting.—Sundry meetings in Suffolk.—Endures a very trying dispensation.—Visits Tivetshall monthly meeting, &c.—Joins Elizabeth Coggeshall in visiting sundry places in Norfolk, Suffolk, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire.—Returns home.

At our monthly meeting in the fifth month, 1798, I mentioned a prospect I had of appointing a few public meetings in my way to or from London yearly meeting; in which my sister Ann united with me; and we were liberated by our friends, to proceed therein as way might open.

In the seventh month, I accompanied my brother Samuel in some public meetings on the eastern side of our county; and at the close was favoured to feel much solid satisfaction.

Oh! how has my soul longed that the inhabitants of this highly-favoured land, even many of those who have been made willing, in some good degree, to seek the Lord for themselves, might become more and more acquainted with him, through a

willingness to centre unto the pure principle placed in the secret of their own hearts. Thus they might sensibly experience the privileges of the glorious gospel dispensation ; and know an establishment on the unchangeable and invincible rock Christ Jesus ; and then they would also know him to go before them, and to be there rearward.

1799. On the second of the first month this year, our friend Sarah Harrison, from America, who was then on a religious visit to Europe, and who had, a few weeks before, returned from Germany, came to my house, and was confined with me, by indisposition, till the ninth of the fourth month following ; except going to Ipswich for two days. Great part of the time she was much tried, not only with bodily suffering, but also with spiritual poverty : yet, I believe there were seasons in which she experienced the Shepherd of Israel, the great Bishop of souls, to arise for her deliverance, whereby she was renewedly enabled to praise his holy name. I was permitted to be her close companion in suffering ; but not in rejoicing ; for, I think, from the day after she first came under my roof, until the day I parted with her at Ipswich, I was not once made sensible of the smallest degree of divine consolation. Indeed such a total cessation, as to any visible appearance of spiritual life, I have but very seldom experienced ; though my mind was not so deeply exercised as at some other times. Often did I fear, lest I

should dwindle into a state which might be compared to that which the church of the Laodiceans was described to be in, "neither hot nor cold,"* and that consequently I must be in danger of receiving the same awful sentence. But, just before we parted, which was on the 11th of the fourth month, at Ipswich, I was permitted to know the veil, which had long eclipsed the sun of righteousness from my view, to be removed; and ability was mercifully afforded to offer a tribute of thanksgiving and praise to the great Author of all good, and to implore his divine protection over us when far separated; and I was favoured to return home in peace. Sarah Harrison left Europe within a few months, having been from home, I think, nearly seven years.

In the latter part of this year, I was exercised for some months, under the weight of a religious prospect of visiting the families of friends in Tivetshall monthly meeting, with some other engagements in that neighbourhood; and, in the 1st month, 1800, finding my mind more closely arrested with this concern, accompanied with what I believed a clear intimation of the time to move in the same; I ventured to mention it to my friends, in the second month, and obtained their concurrence to proceed in my visit, as, in the pointings of truth, way should open for it.

* Rev. iii. 15.

On the 12th of the second month, accompanied by my dear brother Samuel, I went to Long Stratton; the next day attended Tivetshall monthly meeting held at Tasburgh, when I opened my prospect to friends, and in it found much relief. After meeting we went to Thomas Broadbank's, whose house was my agreeable lodging during my stay in that meeting. Sixth day the 14th, my brother went to Norwich, and, accompanied by T. B. I began the arduous engagement in prospect. Seventh day, I continued the visit to families, and my brother returned from Norwich. First day he staid with me, and in the evening I had his company very acceptably in two families. Second day he left me, and returned home.

From this time until fifth day the 27th, I was closely engaged in going through the remaining families in Tasburgh meeting, and those in Tivetshall. First day, the 2d of third month, I was at Tivetshall meeting. Second and third day, I sat in the few families constituting Diss meeting. Fourth day attended the week-day meeting there, and after it, contrary to my expectation, I felt full liberty to return home, which I did that afternoon. I was favoured with a peaceful ride home, and felt thankful for the present unexpected release from further labour.

The next morning, my mind became renewedly

exercised concerning the inhabitants of some villages where I had been, in the course of the family visit ; with a clear prospect when and where to appoint the first meeting, though without any uneasiness at coming home as I did. However, I kept my feelings to myself, until the day following, and then acquainted my near connexions, that I had a prospect of appointing a meeting at Yaxley, the next first day evening ; which did not appear to be any surprise to them, they having had reason to expect that some further engagements than had yet taken place, might be required of me. Accompanied by Thomas Broadbank, my brother Samuel, and other relatives, on first day afternoon, the 9th of the third month, I went to Yaxley, where we were met by several friends of Tivetshall monthly meeting, and were favoured with a large and solid meeting. After it, T. B. my brother Samuel, and myself, went to Diss.

Next evening we had a meeting with the inhabitants of Scole and Dicklesburg ; and after it went to the house of our kind friends John and Ann Holmes. On third day, a meeting at Shottisham, to my own mind, was a very relieving opportunity, feeling divine support in a very precious manner to be near, which was cause of thankfulness. After it we went to Thomas Broadbank's. On fourth day we attended Tasburgh week-day meeting, which, though small, was a relieving and strengthening season.

son to my mind. I was very unexpectedly, in the latter part of the meeting, led to address an individual present whose family I had been in, when in that meeting before, but did not at that time feel any openness to express any thing to him ; though my mind was closely exercised on his account. He was in this meeting, much humbled, and I covet for him that through faithfulness to known duty, his last days may be his best days.

That evening we had a meeting at Hempnall, where was a great variety of states ; a few solid people, and many of a very different description. To the latter in a very remarkable manner, the extension of divine goodness and mercy was evidently manifested, to save them from destruction, if there was but a willingness to accept of the means of purification. " Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord,"* was awfully sounded amongst them. On fifth day, the 13th, we attended Tivetshall monthly meeting, which was a season owned by the great Master of all rightly gathered assemblies.

After the last meeting my brother Samuel and myself returned home in peace. And I have cause to bear in remembrance my heavenly Father's goodness, in supporting and carrying me through those engagements ; having to acknowledge that although I did go out weeping, I was permitted to return with joy. I

have reason to believe my coming home before I had those public meetings was right, in order to have my dear brother's company ; yet, if I had seen before I got home, with clearness, that I was to return so soon ; it would, I suppose, have felt rather trying in prospect. To be enabled to go on day after day, just moving in the present ability afforded, without being unprofitably anxious to see more of the work at once, than is consistent with the great Master's will to unfold, I have always found, is not more the duty than the interest of his truly dependant servants ; if I have ever known this happy state of mind, though for want of "letting patience have her perfect work,"* I have oft-times increased my trials and exercises, I believe beyond what might have been designed for me to endure for the work's sake. After such feeble efforts to promote the cause of truth, what a mercy it is, to be favoured with any sensible evidence of the approbation of the great Minister of ministers ! Yet I humbly trust that such was my consoling experience in the close of this visit ; and, under the humbling influence thereof, I was enabled, renewedly to acknowledge, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me."†

In the eighth month this year, Elizabeth Coggeshall, from Newport, Rhode Island, in the course of her religious visit to Europe, came to Needham, accom-

* JAMES i. 4.

† 1 SAM. vii. 12.

panied by Abigail Pimm of London, who left her here and returned home. When I first heard of their arrival, and that A. Pimm was likely to leave E. Coggeshall immediately, it very forcibly impressed my mind, that it would be right for me to unite with the latter, in some part of her future prospects; and, before I saw her, it was, I apprehended, pretty clearly manifested to my mind, that I should join her in Norfolk, and continue with her until she reached Yorkshire. This I kept to myself wholly, for a few days, while she remained in this neighbourhood; and before she left it, I found my sister Ann had a prospect of accompanying Elizabeth for the present: but upon our opening our views to each other, hers appeared to close where mine began.

In the ninth month, I informed my friends of my prospect of joining our friend E. Coggeshall for a while, and received their concurrence. On seventh day, the 6th of this month accompanied by my brother Samuel, I went to Tasburgh. Next morning, at Wymondham, we met E. Coggeshall and my sister Ann; also my brother William who went to meet his wife a few days before. After attending the meeting there, we all went to one held at Mattishall in the evening.

After this meeting my brother William and his wife went towards home; and my brother Samuel,

E. Coggeshall, and myself accompanied by our friend Thomas Broadbank, went on to Dereham. On second day my brother left us, and returned home, and Thomas, Elizabeth, and myself, went to Holt, where we intended having a meeting with friends that evening. The friend's house where we were to take up our quarters, being out of the town, and a contrary way to that which we entered, we were obliged to ride quite through it; and my mind became so much interested on account of the inhabitants at large, that it did not appear right to conceal my prospect from my dear companion, and she uniting with it, public invitation was given, and we had a satisfactory meeting, in which we were favoured with the overshadowing wing of divine mercy; and under the influence thereof, ability was afforded to minister to divers states and conditions present. The greatest part of the public labour devolved upon Elizabeth: but I felt my mind in a peculiar manner engaged for the welfare of some individual, who, like the prodigal son, had "wasted his substance with riotous living;"* believing our heavenly Father was still graciously disposed to receive such a one in mercy, if there were a willingness to return unto him. At the time I was speaking, I had not any knowledge who it was I was addressing; but after meeting, I thought I could have lain my hand

* LUKE XV. 13.

on the head of an individual, and have said, "Thou art the man;"* but as it did not appear a divine requisition so to do, I believed it best to leave him to the unflattering witness in his own mind.

On third day, the 9th, we were at Wells monthly meeting; fourth day, Swaffham week-day meeting; fifth day, Lynn monthly meeting. Sixth day we had an appointed meeting at Wareham in the morning; and one in the evening at Brandon; and on seventh day, an appointed meeting at Mildenhall. First day, 14th, we attended Thetford meeting; and afterwards went to Bury. On second and third day, the quarterly meeting was held there.

After our quarterly meeting, my dear E. Coggeshall, not seeing her way from Bury into Leicestershire, I mentioned a place we passed through in Norfolk, which had dwelt pretty much with me during my stay at Bury, believing it would be right for me to have a meeting with the inhabitants there, viz. Stoke. This acknowledgment from me, soon cleared her way; and we made it known to our friends, and had a meeting appointed at that place on fourth day evening, the 17th which proved a memorable opportunity. I believe it was a time of precious visitation to many of the inhabitants of that place and neighbourhood. And though it was somewhat

* 2 Sam. xii. 7.

more than usually trying to me to propose this meeting, considering myself set out with one, who, I expected, would generally have to lead the way ; yet, after it was over, the reward I was permitted to feel in my own mind, was a very full compensation for what I had passed through before it : indeed I think I have but seldom felt such an uninterrupted flow of peace, as was my happy experience through that evening.

Fifth day, 18th. We went this morning to Wareham, with my brother Samuel, who had kindly accompanied us the preceding day from Bury. After breakfast, we had a precious season of solid retirement in the friend's family there ; and after it took leave of them, and my dear brother, he returning home from this place. We proceeded towards Leicester ; and, on sixth day evening, had a meeting at Oakham, in Rutlandshire. First day, 21st, we were at Leicester, to good satisfaction ; my mind was nearly bound to some exercised minds in that place. Second day, we had a meeting at Hinkley, and afterwards returned to Leicester.

On third day evening, the select quarterly meeting was held there ; and next day the quarterly meeting. A mournful time it was to me ; occasioned, I believe, by my withholding more than was meet, which tended to poverty, and distress of mind ; yet I think

it was more from a preference I felt for others, whose public labour I esteemed before my own, than from any unwillingness to offer the food given me to hand, though it might have appeared but as the barley loaf; for that with a little of the divine blessing, doubtless would have proved sufficient to have fed those, for whom it might be designed; which was my painful reflection when too late. After a time of sore conflict before we left the family there, where we had been very kindly entertained several days, a little ability was mercifully afforded me, to intercede for them and ourselves, that we might all be enabled so to pass our time of sojourning here, as at last to know an admittance where sorrow is no more. And matchless goodness was pleased, in the close, to convey intelligibly to my secret feeling, "It is enough:" and I left Leicester in peace.

On fifth day we had a meeting at Loughborough; and in the afternoon went to Castle Donington, to the house of our valuable, ancient friends George and Ruth Fallows, where we enjoyed a peaceful evening with them, and were much comforted and encouraged by dear Ruth's instructive company and conversation. On sixth day we had a meeting at Castle Donington, in which Elizabeth had some public labour amongst a people, many of whom appeared to be too much strangers to the precious privileges of these gospel days, although most of

them were professing to be worshippers of the great object of adoration in spirit and in truth ; so that it proved an exercising season ; but a little opportunity of solid retirement in the family after dinner, enabled us to leave the place with relieved minds ; and that evening we had a meeting at Derby.

On first day, the 28th we were at Nottingham meeting in the morning, where, after sitting a while in close exercise, a little ability was afforded me to cast off my burden. I was permitted to feel relief when I took my seat again, and my dear E. Coggeshall had a very lively testimony afterwards, much to my comfort ; and, as far as relates to ourselves, I believe we were both favoured to partake of a portion of peace at the close of the meeting ; yet, I had much to fear that the word preached, to some states in particular, would prove altogether unavailing. Yet, oh ! what a mercy, amidst the many discouraging circumstances which we are liable to experience, when passing along from place to place in gospel bonds, to know that the reward of our labour is not confined to the reception our mission meets with from man, but is proportioned to our obedience to Him, who sees and knows the hearts of all men.

At Nottingham, Joseph Marriage, who had accom-

the difficulty which our kind friend Joseph Storrs felt about its accomplishment ; yet, unless he could have said he believed it best for us to give up the meeting, I did not feel it safe to do so, without making some attempt to have one, my dear E. Coggeshall being fully resigned to it, though she felt nothing towards it herself. We had, in the end, to acknowledge the goodness and mercy of our heavenly Father, who, blessed be his great and glorious name, does not send his children and servants a warfare at their own charge, but is mercifully pleased, sometimes when they appear to be reduced to the greatest extremity, to prove himself to be strength in their weakness. Our dear friend J. Storrs, before he parted with us this evening, told me he was glad he had been at that meeting ; which acknowledgement, added to the peaceful serenity before felt, caused the rest of the evening to be a season of humbling gladness.

On second and third day, we travelled to York ; but before we got there, E. Coggeshall began to be apprehensive it would be best for us to attend a monthly meeting to be held at Warnsworth the fifth day following ; and after we got to York, the weight increasing, we concluded to return. After the meeting at York on fourth day, accompanied by Henry Tuke, we went part of the way ; and on fifth day morning we got in seasonable time to the meeting at

Warnsworth, which was a low time with me ; but dear E. C. had acceptable service, in the meeting for worship. When I found that Elizabeth had a prospect of attending this monthly meeting, as I began now to feel very near the end of my present mission, I thought it probable some friend amongst them might find, at least, a religious liberty to join her for a while ; and, therefore, in the women's meeting, I mentioned how I was circumstanced, and wished friends present to endeavour to feel whether the lot did not fall amongst some of them, to unite with our beloved friend ; but no one appearing to see it their place so to do, I returned with her to York.

We were at York on first day the 12th ; and I was able to rejoice, in ability being afforded to my dear friend to labour in her great master's cause, though it was a very low time with me. As no companion offered, I did not feel satisfied to leave her, and therefore I concluded to set out with her again on second day morning, in order to take some meetings in that county ; expecting we should return the following first day.

We had meetings at Pickering and Malton ; were at Pickering monthly meeting, and afterwards had meetings at Hutton in the Hole, Helmsley, Bilsdale, and Kirby, and so returned to York. We left it again and went to Thirsk, Borrowby, and Masham. At this latter place our

friend Mary Tate, of Cottingwith, near York, met us, for the purpose of uniting with Elizabeth, and that day, the 24th of the tenth month, I parted with them, after a religious opportunity to be remembered with gratitude. My soul was poured forth in supplication to the Father of Mercies, for the blessing of preservation, through the remaining part of our pilgrimage here, whether we should ever be permitted to meet again in this mutable state or not; that so we might be prepared to join the just of all generations, whenever the midnight cry should be heard, of, "Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him."* My beloved friend and her new companion, went to a meeting appointed for them that evening at Leyburn, and I returned to Thirsk; and on the way, by the food received before we separated, was sweetly sustained, to the gladdening of my heart. Indeed for some days after, my mind was preserved in such a state of tranquility; as was cause of thankfulness.

On sixth day I returned to York; where I staid until fifth day the 30th, and left it in company with several friends. Eleventh month 2d, first day, we attended friends' meeting at Derby, where we were joined by J. and E. Hoyland, and with them we travelled to Hitchin, which place we reached on ourth day evening, the 5th. Here I was met by my

* MAT. XXV. 6.

brother Dykes, who accompanied me home on third day, the 11th of the 11th month.

After parting with my beloved companion E. C. I thought it a privilege to have the company of my much-valued friends before mentioned : and that my dear brother was disposed to meet me when I parted with them. After I got home, though I left it this time, more from an apprehension of duty to unite in sympathy with a beloved friend, than from a prospect of any religious engagement on my own account, I felt peace. And I humbly trust there were seasons experienced, wherein my dear friend and myself could feelingly acknowledge, we were bound together in gospel unity; harmoniously labouring for the advancement of the most noble cause, which can be advocated on earth. May it be our happy employ to celebrate it in a joyful eternity, through an unreserved dedication of heart during our stay here, to the whole will of Him, who has a right to dispose of us as he sees meet.

CHAPTER VII.

12th Month, 1800, to the 9th Month, 1802.

Concern for the youth, &c.—Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire.—Religious prospects.—Visit to Surry, Sussex and Hampshire quarterly meetings, &c.—Returns home—Visits sundry villages in her own county.—Burial of Isaac Brightwen.—Decease of — —.

Previously to our quarterly meeting, held here in the twelfth month this year, and during its sittings, my mind was dipped into a state of mourning on account of some of its members, who, I was ready to fear, through unwatchfulness, had of late declined, rather than advanced in the way which leads to enduring felicity. Many of the youth appeared on the wing, soaring above the pure simplicity of the truth; and having the company of divers of these at my own house, I apprehended I felt a necessity laid upon me to intercede with the Father of mercies on their behalf. I was engaged to desire that they, with many more, might be prevailed upon to choose him for their portion, and be willing to follow him in the path of unreserved dedication, which yields more substantial comfort here, than any sublunary enjoyment can possibly do; and affords a well-grounded hope of an admittance hereafter into un-

mixed happiness. I think I have not often felt more solid satisfaction result from an engagement of this sort, than I was permitted to feel that evening.

1801. In the forepart of this year I was often closely tried concerning an individual in the station of an elder, for whom I had long entertained a sincere regard; but who now seemed in danger of making shipwreck of faith. At our quarterly meeting in the third month, my painful apprehensions increased, so that, in the bitterness of my soul, I was almost ready to utter the mournful language, "Who shall stand?"* when a ray of holy confidence in the never failing arm of divine sufficiency, was mercifully vouchsafed, after this season of deep discouragement. It proved the eve of a precious day in the quarterly meeting at large, wherein we were graciously owned by the great Father of his people, and some of us had cause humbly to acknowledge his fatherly dealings with us, and that to Him, with his beloved Son, our blessed Saviour, belong all thanksgiving and praise.

In the sixth month, my brother Samuel and myself, were a few days in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, with a friend who was then in these

* PSALM CXXX. 3.

parts on a religious visit, and was going into Scotland. The time we were together was short, but feeling the uniting bond of gospel fellowship, I think we were permitted to be as a threefold cord.

We parted with this friend, after a meeting at Huntingdon, in which I trust, I may say, truth gave us the victory. Though it was but a small gathering, there appeared to be many different states among them, a few I believe humble travellers for the prosperity of the pure cause. May they be strengthened in every good word and work, by the mighty power of Him, who can still enable "a little one to become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation."* After meeting we were favoured with a baptizing time in Hannah Even's family; and a little season of retirement in Phebe Fuller's, before we separated. Brother Samuel and myself reached home the next day, the 24th of sixth month. For some days after, my mind was permitted to experience an uninterrupted tranquility, which I desire to acknowledge with humble thankfulness to Him, with whom are all the blessings both of time and eternity. It afforded a morsel of nourishment for many days, during a season of close exercise and trial; which it was my allotment to experience very soon after this time.

* ISAIAH lx. 22.

First day, 23d of 8th Month, 1801.

A weighty religious prospect, of which I have had a distant view, at times, for several years, has been the close attendant of my mind for many weeks past, and occasioned me much deep, though hidden, exercise; not feeling liberty to disclose it to any one; even though I have, sometimes, of late, been almost ready to apprehend I must make it public at our next monthly meeting. Whilst I was awfully contemplating the subject in meeting this morning, with my mind entirely resigned to do so, if permitted to see clearly that the time for moving therein was come; I heard a voice distinctly, to my spiritual faculties, declare, "A ram caught in a thicket;"* accompanied with an evidence that, at least, for the present, the will was accepted for the deed.

Immediately after it, another prospect opened to my view with great clearness, viz. to attend the ensuing quarterly meetings for Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire; and to visit some particular meetings and places in those counties, which appeared as a sacrifice that would be accepted, and therefore might be compared to "The ram caught in the thicket."

* Gen. xxi. 18.

First day, 30th of the eighth Month.

This prospect has continued with such unclouded clearness, that I dare not doubt its being right to move therein, if my friends are free to set me at liberty. And whether the more important concern, because more extensive, ever should be opened again, I desire to leave with Him, whose wisdom and knowledge cannot be searched; for assuredly his ways are past finding out.

At our monthly meeting, in the ninth month, I laid before my friends the above religious prospect, and obtained their concurrence to move therein as best wisdom might direct. My brother Samuel was, at this time, under an appointment from the yearly meeting, to visit, with several other friends, the quarterly meetings of Sussex and Surrey. His daughter Lucy feeling an inclination to accompany her father to the above quarterly meetings, we all left home together on the 14th of this month, and went to Bury, in order to attend our own quarterly meeting to be held there; intending to proceed on our journey after it.

In our way to London, we had a meeting with the inhabitants of Boxford, to pretty good satisfaction. On seventh day evening, the 19th, we got to Ryegate in Surrey, where my brother met his com-

panions. The next day we attended the two meetings held there, and, in the evening, the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders for that county ; and on second day, the quarterly meeting. We likewise attended the quarterly meeting for Sussex, and that for Hampshire.

After this last quarterly meeting, a part of the yearly meeting's committee went directly to London. But my brother Samuel and some others, accompanied me a day or two longer. On seventh day evening we had a meeting with the inhabitants of Issington and another village, in the neighbourhood of Alton. On first day, the 27th, we were at Godalming, attended both the meetings, and had a relieving opportunity in a friend's family in the evening. On second day morning, my dear brother and the rest of the yearly meeting's committee, with his daughter, left me, and went to London in order to attend the quarterly meeting there, that being a part of their commission.

As I did not feel any thing to draw me there, I was most easy to stop in Surrey ; and on third day, I attended Guildford monthly meeting. Fourth day morning I went to Esher, to the week-day meeting ; where I had the satisfaction of meeting my brother Samuel, who had returned from London, and he continued with me through the journey,

panied us from Bury, left us, and returned home. That evening we had a meeting at Mansfield. On second day morning we went to Chesterfield, to the house of my much esteemed friend Joseph Storrs ; and in the afternoon we had a meeting there ; which to me was a very gloomy season ; but dear E. Coggeshall had acceptable service both in testimony and supplication. On third day we had a meeting at Furnace, where my mind was pretty closely exercised for two individuals who came into the meeting rather late, and had but little appearance of being members of our society. Upon their entering into the meeting house, I thought I felt a flow of gospel solicitude raised in my mind on their account ; particularly did I feel for the female, and believe it was a time of humbling instruction to her mind : I wish it may prove of lasting advantage to her.

On fourth day we had a meeting at Breach, which was measurably owned by the great Shepherd of Israel. On fifth day, we travelled through a mountainous country ; and in the course of this day, as we passed through some small villages, my mind was so attracted towards the inhabitants of them, that I believe, had we been free from previous engagements by other meetings being appointed for us, I should have felt best satisfied to have acknowledged it to my dear companion ; but as that was the case, I kept my feelings to myself. In this instance I believe it was

needful for meetings to be fixed a little beforehand, on account of the particular situation of some places thereabouts; but, in general, I have found, in any services of this sort, in which I have been engaged, that it was safest, and indeed was my incumbent duty, as much as possible, to live as it were one day at once.

On sixth day we had a meeting at Mony Ash, and after it returned to Chesterfield. On seventh day morning, before we left the hospitable roof of our kind friends Joseph and Mary Storrs, we were permitted to experience a little season of retirement, wherein, I trust, our minds were humbled together before Him, whose tender mercies are over all his works. Joseph Storrs went with us to a meeting at Retford that evening. On first day, the 5th of the tenth month, we went to Blyth in the morning; and in the evening had a meeting at Barnby Moore, a small village we had passed through in the morning. It was a considerable trial to me to give up to appoint this meeting, finding some friends were apprehensive it would not be likely to prove satisfactory. One objection appeared to be the smallness of the place, though I wished invitation to be given beyond the village, if a situation large enough could be procured to admit of extending it further; but what weighed more with me than any other obstacle, was

evening we had a satisfactory meeting at Bletchingly, and after it, went home with our kind friend Thomas Dann of Nutfield at whose house we rested the next day, expecting to go thence to Rochester; in order to attend a quarterly meeting there, to which my beloved brother felt bound, and I felt full liberty to accompany him.

On seventh day, in company with T. Dann and his daughter, we went to Rochester; and were at a meeting there, on first day, the 18th. On second day, we attended the quarterly meeting. Third day went to London, to our kind friends' John and Tabitha Bevans. Fourth day morning we left them, after a solid opportunity in their family, and went to Grace-Church-street week-day meeting, where my dear brother had a lively, and, to some faithfully exercised minds, and encouraging testimony. In the afternoon we went to Upton. On fifth day we went to Tottenham, and on sixth day proceeded homewards; and reached Ipswich on seventh day evening.

On first day, tenth month, 25th, we attended the meetings there; and, in the evening, had a humbling season of awful retirement in our friend Isaac Liversedge's chamber, who was then very ill, of an indisposition from which he did not recover, though he lived several weeks longer. We returned home after it, well satisfied that we went round by Ipswich

to visit him, that being our principle motive for going there at that time. After my return home, I had renewedly to acknowledge the goodness and mercy of Him, who is still graciously pleased to reward the sincere, though feeble endeavours of his little ones, with a portion of that peace, which can come only from his boundless treasury, and therefore, I humbly trust, may be received as a mark of divine acceptance ; and is a jewel worth toiling long to obtain.

In this little journey I experienced many different dispensations. Sometimes, when I believed it to be my duty to appoint meetings, weakness has been so much the covering of my spirit, in getting through them, that I was often led to fear lest I should have run, without being sent by him who alone can qualify for his own service ; yet at other times, I have humbly and thankfully to acknowledge, I never was more sensible of divine support and qualification to perform what appeared to be required of me, both among friends and others.

Under a humbling consideration of my heavenly Father's goodness, my soul was, after my return home, many times bowed in reverence before him ; craving his protecting care, both in heights and in depths ; that under every dispensation of his un-

SOME ACCOUNT OF

erring Providence, there may be ability to say, "Thy will be done."*

Very soon after our return home, we had an account of the departure of dear Mary Ann Smith, who closed this life the day after we left Tottenham. Though there appeared but little, if any probability of her recovery when we parted with the family; yet it was unexpected to us, so quickly to receive the intelligence of her awful change; but as I believe her spirit was happily prepared for it, it is a great mercy to her, that infinite Wisdom hath been pleased to cut the work short in righteousness; and to admit her to a full enjoyment of that precious communion with himself, the foretaste of which, I verily believe, she accounted her choicest blessing, whilst here.

1802. I had not been long at home, after my return from the foregoing visit to the counties of Surrey and Sussex, &c. before another religious exercise revived in my mind, which I had felt at times for several years; viz. to hold some meetings in small villages on the western side of this county. Very early in this year, the time for moving therein appeared clearly to open, and I found my dear friends John Kirkham and Martha Brewster, had similar prospects; and that the former had felt his mind par-

* MAT. xxvi. 42.

ticularly impressed to make known to me his concern, without any previous information of my having any such prospect. I informed him and my friend M. B. of the time I had in view; which, after solid consideration, they felt easy with, and we applied to our different monthly meetings in the fourth month; and obtained the concurrence of our friends respectively to unite, and proceed agreeably to our prospects laid before them.

We met at Bury, on seventh day, the 10th of the fourth month; and on first day attended the morning meeting there. In the evening we had a meeting with the inhabitants of Horingsheath, a village in the neighbourhood of Bury. From this time, until fourth day, the 21st, we were in a similar manner engaged, holding meetings within a short distance of that place. And, in most, if not all of them, amongst a people who were very much strangers to us as a religious society. Many of them appeared also much strangers to all true religion, and to that divine influence which only can quicken the soul, to a lively sense of the goodness and mercy of our great and gracious Creator; and enable us to perform acceptable worship unto "Him, who is a spirit, and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth."* Yet, in some places, we met with a few seeking minds, to our comfort; and amongst them, at times, we were enabled to renew

* JOHN iv, 23.

our strength in the Lord, who from day to day was pleased to give us to know that he was sufficient for his own work ; though when with a people who were so much unacquainted with his spiritual assistance, it was sometimes humiliating labour. However, some of these seasons were succeeded by a degree of that solid satisfaction, which compensated for the suffering of the day. Where the great Master is not admitted to reign, his faithful servants cannot but suffer ; and they ought to esteem it a favour to be found worthy to abide with him, even in tribulation.

The last-mentioned evening, viz. fourth day 21st, we had a meeting at Bottesdale, with the inhabitants of that place ; and after it set off with several friends who accompanied us thither, intending to return to Badwell-Ash. We had not got out of the town of Bottesdale, before we experienced a very close trial, occasioned by one of our friends receiving a very alarming hurt on his head, by a fall from his horse, which ran away with him immediately after he had mounted. As soon as we could get him taken back to the inn which we had just left, we had a surgeon's assistance, who appeared to be a man of good judgment in his profession, which was alleviation to our tried minds. After staying with him till all was done for him that we were able to do under his then circumstances, most of us proceeded, as we had before intended, to Badwell-Ash, leaving two friends with

him for the rest of the night. On fifth day morning, Martha and myself felt most easy to go back to Bottesdale, to see the friend who had been hurt, whom we found quite as well as we could reasonably expect, which was cause of heartfelt gratitude to the great Preserver of his people. We staid with him until that afternoon, when his wife, who had been sent for, came to him ; and she accompanied him home the next day. We had one meeting more before we returned to Bury, and got back there on seventh day, the 24th.

Though our absence was but for a few days, we had experienced some deeply proving seasons, wherein our faith had been closely tried : yet we had abundant cause to acknowledge, that our minds had been graciously favoured with divine support in the time of need, to our humbling admiration.

The next day we attended the morning meeting at Bury ; and in the evening had a large number of the inhabitants. Invitation was particularly given to the lower class of the people, and it proved a relieving opportunity to our minds ; which we esteemed a gracious mark of divine condescension, of some deeply trying baptisms. After this meeting was over, we all felt the weight of our present mission so lightened, as to believe a release was near approaching. After visiting a few friends in their families on

second day, the way was clear for our coming to Needham on third day, the 27th of fourth month; and that evening my beloved companions had a public meeting here, invitation having been giving to the inhabitants of Barking, at John Kirkham's request.

On 4th day, after a solid opportunity together, with our very kind helpers, John Marriage, jun. and John Perry, we parted; the former accompanying John Kirkham home. At the time of parting, my mind was permitted to feel a degree of peaceful quiet; but, I think, I have seldom, if ever, experienced the same stripped, tried situation so soon after any engagement of this sort, as was my allotment, with but little exception. Although I could not but believe we were right in parting when we did, yet an apprehension was prevalent that it remained an unfinished work. Earnest have been my desires, that on whomsoever the lot may fall to be again engaged in it, we may be enabled to keep our eye single unto the Shepherd of Israel, who, I humbly trust, did put us forth, go before us, and granted a present release from that field of labour; then he may be pleased to unfold to us the further discovery of his holy will, and enable us to be resigned thereunto.

On first day, the second of fifth month, I accompanied my brother Samuel to Diss, to see our friend

Isaac Brightwen, who, we had been informed, appeared to be very near his final close; and when we got there, we found he was not sensible, and in such a situation as to leave no reason to expect his surviving many hours. We attended a meeting there, which was a solid opportunity, and after it returned to the house; and his wife requesting our going to them into his chamber, we did so, and sat until we saw the awful conflict finished; when we were permitted to feel a precious covering, accompanied with a belief that the deceased had quitted mortality, for a glorious immortality. Before we left the house, we were favoured with a humbling uniting season with his widow and children. The following first day, the 9th, we attended the burial, which was a memorable meeting to me, and I trust to divers others who were present: yet I fear such opportunities are too frequently soon forgotten.

Ninth Month, 30th, fifth day.

The remains of———were interred in friends burial ground here. He was one over whom I had many times lamented, from a firm persuasion that if he had been faithful to the pure manifestations of truth in his own mind, he would have been dignified thereby, and have been made useful unto others. But instead hereof, it is to be feared, for want of keeping watchful and faithful in the day of small

things, to the discoveries of the divine will concerning him, the enemy of all righteousness prevailed so far over his once enlightened mind, as to induce him to let fall divers testimonies to the pure principle of truth, which, I verily believe, in his youthful days, were precious in his view. Yet I am willing to believe, that through much tribulation he has obtained mercy, and is admitted into holy rest. In the last few days of his life, I repeatedly sat by his bed side, and was sometimes favoured to feel a consoling belief that this would be his happy experience.

CHAPTER VIII.

12th Month, 1802. to the 7th Month, 1804.

A season of withdrawing, and trial.—Hitchin.—Visit to friend's families, &c. in Suffolk.—London yearly meeting.—Her sister Ann's visit to America.—Reflections.—Renewal of a religious prospect alluded to, in 1801.—Cast before the monthly meeting.—Remark on her feelings upon such occasions.

The latter end of this year, and most of the first month, 1803, I was at Ipswich, with my dear sister Hannah, previously to, and during her confinement with her daughter Priscilla. Though I was well satisfied therewith, believing it to be my duty to do what I could to alleviate a time of trial which she was permitted to experience; yet, as to myself, it was a season of peculiar withdrawing of all substantial comfort. Sometimes I could not but secretly mourn my destitute state of mind; and had there not been a little cheering ray of holy confidence, mercifully vouchsafed, in that All-sufficient Power, who is still able to “open,” at his pleasure, “rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the vallies :* to make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry

* ISAIAH xli. 18.

land springs of water ;” I think, it seemed almost as if, I must have sunk into irrecoverable sadness. But, blessed be the name of Israel’s God, he was pleased to sustain through this long winter season ; and, at times, to afford a grain of living faith, that when his wisdom saw it was enough, the cloud should be removed from the tabernacle. I was sometimes ready to conclude, my present suffering was intended as a preparatory dispensation, for an arduous and important engagement, which towards the latter part of the time revived and spread in my mind ; though not with sufficient clearness to satisfy me, the full time was come for opening it to my friends.

In the latter end of this month, I accompanied my brother and sister W. and A. Alexander to Hitchin, where, on fifth day, the 27th, we attended the interment of dear Joshua Wheeler. It was a solid meeting, and divers lively testimonies were delivered therein ; as there were likewise in an opportunity in his family in the evening. Though, as to myself, I experienced, through the day, much poverty of spirit, yet I was well satisfied in being there, and glad to be witness to the gracious support mercifully vouchsafed to dear Elizabeth, who was strengthened to bear testimony in the evening, to the goodness and sufficiency of that divine power which had supported her under the present deeply afflictive dispensation.

After my return home, I went again to Ipswich; and staid about ten days longer with my sister Hannah. During that time I felt more closely the weighty prospect which had revived before I left her. After I got home, it so much increased in weight, as to induce me to believe it was right for me to open to my friends, in the third month, a prospect I had of visiting the families of friends throughout our quarterly meeting; and also of holding public meetings: particularly on the western side of the county, in some villages which were left unvisited when I was joined by John Kirkham and Martha Brewster; and I obtained the concurrence of friends to proceed therein.

To give up thus far without any knowledge of a companion, was a sacrifice which cost me many hours of close exercise of mind, and many fears for the honour of the pure cause I was about to espouse. To be so engaged amongst divers who were not strangers to me, increased the arduousness of the work in my view; believing it would be in a peculiar manner needful to stand resigned, to renewed baptisms, in the course of such an engagement; in order to experience all inferior judgment removed, and to feel an entire reliance, from hour to hour, on the guidance of unerring Wisdom.

My mind for a short season was permitted to re-

ceive consolation, from an acknowledgment of my beloved brother Samuel's to the monthly meeting, that he felt most easy to inform his friends, he believed, if no other companion offered, he should feel bound to accompany me through some part of the visit. He had their full concurrence so to do. And, in the course of our religious engagements together, I had good cause to believe, that his willingness to sympathize with me, and, as far as was consistent with the great Master's will, to become a fellow-labourer in the arduous work, was not all he was called to, but that he was separated for a similar work, within the compass of our own monthly meeting.

We left home on seventh day, the 19th of the third month, and went that evening to Woodbridge, and the next morning to Leiston, in time for meeting. In the afternoon and evening we had four sittings in the families there. On second and third days we sat with the rest of that meeting in their families. Fourth day morning, we began a visit to the families at Woodbridge; and finished the next evening. On sixth day morning, we had a meeting with friends there; and in the afternoon were favoured to leave them in peace.

In the evening we had three sittings at Ipswich, and there we were in a similar manner engaged,

until fourth day evening, the 30th of this month. During our visit in that place, I underwent the deepest baptisms, I ever experienced. For several days after we got there, it seemed as though every day they grew heavier, so that sometimes I was almost ready to feel dismayed, lest I had begun a work, which I should not be able to accomplish. But, to the praise of our Holy Head and High Priest, I was favoured to witness, that, sufficient for the day, was the strength he was pleased in mercy to dispense. That evening, after the close of the visit, and through the greatest part of the night, I was favoured to partake more largely of the foretaste of enduring felicity, than ever I had done before. It was a night which I desire may ever remain in my remembrance, with reverent thankfulness to the blessed Author of all good. I thought to feel what I then felt, uninterruptedly, would, without augmentation, constitute a joyful eternity.

The next day, at a meeting with friends there, I was renewedly plunged into close exercise, though not without some ability to cast off my burden, by ministering unto them, and interceding with the Father of mercies for them and ourselves. But I did not feel a full release from Ipswich, without submitting to invite all my brother Dykes' workmen, and such of their families as inclined to attend, to come together that evening; and it proved a solid

opportunity. After it was over, I was favoured to experience a renewal of the precious peace, which had been my allotment the preceding evening.

On sixth day morning, the 1st of the fourth month, after sitting with a young woman who attends meetings, but is not a member of our society, we came home; and a happy day it was to me, feeling the incomes of enriching peace.

On first day, the 3d, I attended Mendlesham meeting, and afterwards sat with the few friends in their different families. On third day, the 5th, I was at our monthly meeting held at Ipswich. Fourth day, accompanied by my brother Samuel, I visited the families in our own particular meeting: but my mind was under too heavy a load of discouragement, in looking towards the future, to get relievingly through the present engagement. However, I have reason to apprehend that the close of this day might have proved more satisfactory, had I attended more to the great Master's injunction of, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself."* This I was favoured to see verified the next day, the 7th of fourth month. In the morning I took leave of my beloved brother Samuel, who expected to set out in a few days for the half year's meeting in Wales. It was a pinching separation to me, as we had been very

* MAT. vi. 34.

nearly bound in gospel fellowship, in the course of our late arduous engagement. My brother William kindly accompanied me to Bury, where I informed my friends, in their monthly meeting-of my prospect in coming amongst them. When I had done so, my dear sister Hannah, who was then on a visit to her sister Martha Brewster, in a weighty manner, proposed to unite with me therein, which met the cordial approbation of her friends, and was truly comforting to me. After meeting, I was favoured to feel such a degree of tranquility, as was cause of humble thankfulness.

On sixth day, we visited three families, and travelled thirty miles. We continued visiting the families in the country meetings round Bury, until third day. That afternoon and evening we had four sittings there; which I got through under much bodily suffering. From that time, for several days, I was much indisposed from a complaint then very prevalent, the influenza; and my dear sister had something of the same disorder; so that, visiting the remaining families in Bury, was all we were able to accomplish in the course of that week.

Under this unexpected detention my mind was mostly favoured to feel peaceful; and it was a great privilege to us, that we were so favourably situated as under our beloved M. B.'s hospitable roof; at a

time when we were unable to proceed in the prospect before us. On first day evening, the 17th, I had a meeting at Cockfield, for some of the inhabitants scattered thereaway; and after it we returned to Bury. On second day we parted with our dear M. B. and went to Haverhill. There we sat with the few families of friends; and afterwards attended a meeting with them. On sixth day, the 22d, I had a meeting with the inhabitants of Withersfield, and another village in the neighbourhood of Haverhill.

On seventh day we went to Sudbury. With friends there, and a meeting with the inhabitants of an adjoining place, we were engaged until third day, the 26th, when we came to Needham. On the way home, my mind was so strongly attracted towards some of the inhabitants of these parts, that I did not feel a full release from this field of labour, until I had invited them to come together, the following first day, 1st of fifth month, when a large number were collected in a barn at Hitcham. Amongst them, I believe, was a great variety of states; some, I trust, awakened seeking minds, though they seemed, as it were, almost lost in the croud. Quietness and peace were mercifully vouchsafed to me on my return home that evening: though I think my mind was never more humbled under a feeling sense of being but an unprofitable servant, if at all worthy to be esteemed one in my heavenly Father's house.

My beloved sister Hannah's sympathy, and secret exercise of mind, many times proved strengthening to me, in the course of our moving along : and I earnestly covet she may reap the reward of solid peace, for this act of dedication to the precious cause ; which will ever be found enough to recompence for many deeply baptizing seasons. I trust we may with thankfulness acknowledge, that although such were sometimes our experience, yet, the Author of all good was with us at other times, and refreshed the visitors and visited together, to our humbling admiration.

Though it has been but seldom that I have had any reason to believe it was right for me to attend our annual meeting in London, having much oftener apprehended my allotment has been to tarry at home, while others of our little company in this meeting were so employed : yet, this year, after the close of the foregoing engagement, I was unusually led into feeling respecting the approaching yearly meeting ; and my mind was nearly bound in gospel sympathy with my beloved sister Ann, who was going under a prospect of casting before the select meeting, her concern to visit the continent of America. I made some efforts to go which did not succeed, and the time being very short, I gave it up. Though I do not know that I can say I felt condemnation, yet I have not had that clear evidence of being in my right

allotment at home, which, at many other times, I have been favoured to experience.

On fifth day, the 14th of the seventh month this year, my dear sister left home for America. On seventh day, the 13th of the eighth month, she embarked at Liverpool, on board the Francis Henrietta, bound for New-York. She was favoured to arrive in safety on sixth day, the 16th of ninth month. The loss of her society is great to many of our little circle in this place ; yet the undoubted persuasion that she is led forth by the great Shepherd of Israel, tends to enable many of her near connexions to feel resigned to His unerring will ; consigning her to his fatherly protection, under every dispensation which he may see meet to appoint or permit her to pass through for his glorious cause sake ; humbly hoping, in his own time, to be favoured to see her restored to us again in peace. That her beloved husband, in a peculiar manner, may be a sharer with her in the precious reward ; and their tender babes know the blessing of preservation, I feel at the present moment nearly interested, may be their individual and united happy experience.

Twelfth month, 31st. For some weeks, near the close of this year, my mind was tried with much deprivation of divine consolation. But within a few days, it has pleased infinite goodness, a little to un-

veil himself to my comfort, and though it has been but of short duration, yet enough to renew a degree of living faith, and holy confidence, in his All-sufficient power, and inscrutable wisdom. And as it is the frequent humbling experience of his servants, that it is consistent with his divine will they should live by faith, it is a mercy which calls for thankfulness of heart, when any ability is felt in sincerity to utter the submissive language, under those dispensations, "Not my will, but thine be done."* Humbled in the consideration of how frail I am, and unable in the smallest degree to come to such a state of resignation without renewed help from time to time, from the holy sanctuary, oh ! may my mind more and more seek after ability to become sanctified throughout, in thought, word, and deed. In reviewing this year, I perceive that although many deep exercises have been permitted for me to pass through, yet the Lord hath sustained me in the midst of them all ; and I have had some seasons of sweet consolation, in which my heart hath been knit to the beloved of my soul.

First Month, 1st, 1804.

My mind this afternoon had been led to consider, that many may be the changes which the present

* LUKE xxii. 42.

year may produce. Many the trials and exercises I may be permitted to experience, and oh ! may there be a centering to the source of all pure instruction, for counsel to move according to divine appointment ; that whether suffering or rejoicing, that part destined for immortality, may be preserved in a state of acceptance with “ the High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy,”* and who still condescends to dwell with them that are of “ a contrite and humble spirit.”

Fifth month, 11th. In the forepart of this year, I became renewedly exercised in the prospect of a religious engagement, which for many years, even from my first appearing in a public testimony in meetings, has, at times, weightily attended my mind ; and particularly in the summer of 1801, when, for a considerable time, I was ready to apprehend it would be consistent with my peace to endeavour to move therein. But infinite Wisdom was pleased at that time to order it otherwise, as already remarked in these memorandums. And now, when it first opened with weight, I felt solicitous that whatever was right in his sight, might be done ; though many have been my fears, as usual under similar impressions, of being deceived by the great adversary, who cares not by what stratagem he can betray. At

* ISAIAH lvii. 15.

length such became the state of my mind, under the deep discouragement which I have felt, that I but seldom possessed any capacity to put up even a secret petition, to the Father and Fountain of Life, for ability to know and do his will: though, day and night, in company and alone, I had not long together, felt liberated from an awful consideration of the important subject. This morning I ventured to unfold to my beloved brother Samuel a little of my tried situation; having long looked towards him as a companion, if ever the way should open for engaging in the prospect in view, though I knew not that he had ever felt a similar concern. After speaking to him, my mind, for a short time, was relieved from a very heavy load, which leads me to believe, let the matter issue as it may, whether I ever see my way to move further in it or not, that I have not done wrong in disclosing my feelings to him. Though he said but a few words on the subject, yet, from the manner in which he received it, and the weight which accompanied us at the time, I do apprehend his mind has been somewhat similarly exercised.

Fourth day, 16th of fifth month. My brother Samuel revived the foregoing subject to me; and, at the same time, acknowledged, to my comfort, that he had for some years felt an apprehension, that a similar engagement would sometime be allotted him; but he had not seen the time for moving therein was

fully come, though since I opened my feelings to him, he has looked more than heretofore towards an early entrance into it; yet not with sufficient clearness to give me much expectation he shall be likely to see his way to join me in next eighth month; which has very much fixed with me as being the right time for my leaving home. Much do I desire we may both be enabled to move under the direction of Him, who remains to be, "Great in counsel, and mighty in work."*

After many anxious hours, and some deep conflicts of spirit, on this important subject, I was enabled, at our monthly meeting in the seventh month, to open my prospect of a visit to friends and some others in Scotland, some of the northern counties of England, and the inhabitants of the Isle of Man. It was received by my friends in a manner that raised humble admiration in my deeply tried mind; and, casting the burden before them, afforded a precious portion of tranquility, to which I had long been much unaccustomed. I think I never was so sensible of divine help and support, under a similar circumstance, as in the women's meeting at this time, though I did not feel altogether the same strength in the men's.

Indeed I have but seldom felt as much ability

* JER. xxxii. 19.

in communicating in this way to my brethren, as when among my sisters : and, I believe, the necessity there is, in such cases, of repeating pretty much the same thing, does in degree lessen the weight of what is expressed.

My dear brother Samuel, at the same time, informed friends, how he had been circumstanced, and that he felt most easy to propose to unite with me. Certificates for us were ordered to be prepared for next monthly meeting, to be held on fourth day, the 1st of the eighth month.

CHAPTER IX.

3d. of 8th Month, 1804, to the 1st. of 1st Month, 1805.

Sets out on the visit to Scotland, &c.—Bury.—Little-port.—Chatteris.—Derby.—Cockermouth.—Par-ton.—Isle of Man.—Whitehaven.—Dissington.—Cockermouth.—Mary Port.—Cockermouth quarterly meeting.—Graysouthen.—Dundee.—Kinmuck.—Balhalgardy.—Old Meldrum.—Aberdeen.—Stonehaven.—Montrose.—Dundee.—Perth.—Glasgow.—Edinburgh monthly meeting.—Newcastle.—Shields.—Darlington, &c.—York.—Wellbourn.—Northampton quarterly meeting.—Chatteris.—Returns home.

Sixth day, the third of the eighth Month.

After so long a time of deep exercise, it has been cause of humble admiration that I have been enabled to look forward towards the weighty engagement in view, with so much serene satisfaction, as, for the last few weeks, has frequently been the happy experience of my thankful heart. Under these feelings, I left home, and we went this evening to Bury. The next day my mind was permitted to know a different dispensation, and I was ready to fear we must part from our dear friend Martha Brewster,

under a sense of the deprivation of that substantial comfort, which, my soul longed to feel. But just before we left her hospitable roof, we were favoured to know a little of the renewed loving kindness of our gracious Helper, who, through our beloved friend M. B., was pleased to open for us a little brook by the way, and we bid farewell to her under its tendering influence.

On first day the 5th, my dear brother Samuel and myself were at Littleport meeting, which was a very small gathering; but we were permitted to experience the fulfilling of the divine promise that, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* It was a humbling baptizing season; to be remembered with thankfulness to Him, in whom are all our fresh springs.

We went that evening to Chatteris, and lodged at our friend John Bateman's, who was from home on a religious engagement with John Abbott, with a view to visit the Isle of Man; and it now looks likely we may cross the water together. Before we left this family, we had a humbling opportunity of religious retirement. In the course of this week we

MAT. xviii. 6.

I.

travelled to Sheffield; taking a week-day meeting, at Loughborough, and another at Derby. At the latter, in the evening of the same day, we had a meeting with the richly visited inhabitants of that place. On first day, the twelfth we were at Sheffield meetings. And thence, on second day, we went to Huddersfield. On fourth day we attended a week-day meeting at Settle; sixth day, one at Mandal; and on seventh day, the 18th, we got to Cockermouth, where we met our friends John Abbott and John Bateman. We all attended the meeting there the next day, and had one in the evening for the inhabitants of that place, appointed by John Abbott. Though we passed through some close exercise, we had cause to be thankful we were there. The evening meeting was a time greatly owned by the Shepherd of Israel.

On second day, we went to our friend Henry Bragg's, at Parton, near Whitehaven; and were informed, on our arrival there, that the packet for the Isle of Man, would sail that evening about ten o'clock. This was intelligence that brought my mind under deep exercise, especially finding all my intended companions were willing to go at that time, though my brother gave a preference to staying over the monthly meeting at Whitehaven, the next day. When I found him so circumstanced, I also endeavoured to look at going with them, but after a

close conflict, I felt best satisfied to inform my beloved brother and fellow-labourer, that, before I left home, I thought I saw we were to attend that monthly meeting, and sail the next day; and that the prospect so continued with me, as to lead me to believe it was safest to give up going by the packet; though there then appeared but very little probability of our getting conveyed to the island, on the day I had in view. My dear brother, when he heard this acknowledgment, felt fully resigned to stay with me. We then informed our friends J. A. and J. B. how we were situated desiring them to pursue their own prospect, if they continued to feel most easy to go that evening; but they likewise concluded to stay the monthly meeting next day. It proved a season of divine favour; and three friends that day were separated to accompany us, who proved truly sympathizing helpers many ways, viz. Henry Bragg, John Fletcher, and Ann Fletcher, the latter as a female companion to me, whose affectionate attention I have cause to remember with gratitude. In the afternoon of that day, Henry Bragg and some other friends, made much inquiry for a vessel to take us over, but could not succeed; and late in the evening it seemed needful to give up the expectation of going the next day. This was another close trial of my faith, having so fully believed that we should meet with something suitable for the next morning. Very soon after it appeared given up

by my companions as a hopeless case, Henry Bragg came in again and informed us he had just met with an offer of a vessel to take us either that evening or the next morning. We soon concluded to take the morning's tide ; and I went to bed with a heart filled with thankfulness and peace.

Fourth day morning, the 22d, we sailed from Whitehaven with a fair wind, and very fine weather, which continued until we got about two-thirds of the way over ; then it became almost a calm ; and when a little wind did spring up, it was nearly a-head of us, which made it slow getting on. However we were favoured to land safe at Ramsay, thirty-four miles, that night ; and had cause to feel our hearts humbled in thankfulness to Him whom wind and waves obey.

We had a meeting at Ramsay the next morning, and another in the evening ; in both which we experienced Holy Help to be near. At this place we met with great kindness from a family who accommodated Ann Fletcher and myself with a bed ; and manifested other acts of benevolence to our little company, which bound them to our affectionate and religious feelings. With them we had a solid season of retirement before we set off on sixth day morning, in which they were recommended to seek more and more after an inward acquaintance with

the Father of spirits, who is the sure reward of all his faithful people, and worthy to be served both by the aged and the youth. Intercession was also made unto Him, that, as they had handed much more to us than a cup of cold water, in the name of Disciples, they might receive their reward; and that he would be pleased to grant us, his pilgrims, the blessing of preservation under all our movements, in passing along through this little island, a very small part of his foot-stool.

On sixth day evening, we had a meeting at a place called Kirk Andrews. On seventh day evening, one at Kirch Michael. On first day morning, the 26th, we had a meeting at Baliff; and in the evening, one at Peeltown, where we met with divers solid people among the society of Methodists; with whom we were permitted to experience, in a very precious manner, the overshadowing wing of divine regard; under the influence whereof, ability was granted, to espouse the truths of the gospel, given to us as a people, in a peculiar manner, to bear unto the world. And, under a humbling sense of his goodness, and of our unworthiness of his multiplied favours, the tribute of thanksgiving and praise was offered unto his glorious name, who is for ever worthy of all that can be ascribed unto him. After meeting we sat a while with one family of the aforesaid people; where we were again permitted to know.

our Holy Helper is confined neither to time nor place; but is condescending to deal out his bread to the hungry, when and where a due preparation is made to receive his bounty.

On second day morning, I arose under an awful apprehension that it would be right for, at least, a part of our company to go again into the family we had visited the preceding evening, and into some others among that people, before we left the place. After breakfast I mentioned this to my companions collectively; and I had the satisfaction of finding my beloved brother had received somewhat of a similar impression. After solid deliberation, part of our band concluded to accompany us, while Henry Bragg and John Fletcher went to a place a few miles distant, in order to provide a meeting for the evening.

We went first to the family we had been with the evening before, where we again met a very cordial reception. We had also the company of their parents, who resided at the next house; and of a solid young man, their preacher. With them altogether, we were favoured to have a truly solemn and profitable opportunity; at the close of which, apprehending we were with some of the heads of their tribe, my brother felt it safest to remark to them a custom we had observed in many places, and particularly on this

island, which was of those in their society, when they attended our meetings, kneeling down on their entrance into the room. He pointed out the difference we felt towards different individuals under this ceremony; some we had cause to believe felt an awful sense of the object of our meeting together; but with respect to some others, their manner was so irreverent, as to cause us to feel deep lamentation on their account; and, in some meetings, we had believed it right at the close of them, to give a caution against complying with such an outward form, while the attention of the mind was far from the great object of adoration and worship. Under a feeling of near regard, we parted with them all, except the young man, who kindly conducted us to the other families which we visited: wherein also we experienced the gathering arm of Israel's Shepherd. The more we saw of this young man, the more we felt bound to him in gospel love, in a sense whereof we bade him farewell.

That evening we had a meeting at Malinaclig. On third day evening one at Darby, with some solid people, but among them we apprehended there was a great diversity of states. It proved, however, a season wherein divine mercy appeared to be near to do the people good. Even some such as had been too much in danger of resting satisfied with former experience of the great Master's gracious visitation

to their souls, without endeavouring to maintain the watch against a situation comparable with that of those who thought themselves rich and increased in goods.

As there was not a place of public entertainment in this village, we were here for several hours taken in by a man and his wife, John and Eleanor Ellison, who appeared to be of truly religious minds. With this family, after a meeting held in the place, we parted, under evident marks of affectionate esteem; and had a beautiful moon-light ride, several of us in an open cart; but tranquillity covering our minds, though it was past midnight before we arrived at our proposed lodging place, we enjoyed our situation. On fourth day, we had a meeting at Castletown in the morning, and one in the evening at Ballamodda; fifth day at Ballanorras; sixth day at Ballasalla; and, on seventh day evening, the 1st of ninth month, we had our last meeting on this island, expecting to sail that night for Whitehaven.

This meeting was held in a large assembly-room at Douglas, and for some time after we met, it was the most unsettled opportunity we had known since our landing on the isle. Indeed, it was so much so, as to plunge my mind into deep discouragement, considering that we could not have another meeting with the inhabitants of that place, without missing

our conveyance by the packet. I think it was a season of as close exercise as I ever remember to have experienced. John Bateman and my dear brother, had each a little matter to offer to the people, I thought very pertinent to the situation of divers amongst them, whose states, as to religious sensibility, I believe, were very different; some of them appearing awfully aware of the intention of our gathering together. However, so little place did the foregoing testimonies appear to have with those of another description, that soon after my brother had taken his seat again, I was ready to apprehend it might be best to close the meeting, but my companions did not feel at liberty to do so. After endeavouring to bear my burden the appointed time, I at length believed it would be safest for me to at least get upon my feet, which I did in much fear and trembling; but with an earnest desire, to be rightly directed by Him, who only knows the food convenient for his people. Probably the novelty of a female's appearance in such a manner, might have place with some of them, so that in a short time they became much quieter, and more attentive; and I was enabled to minister to many different conditions present, to the relief of my own mind. After this, some further communications were offered by my fellow-labourers; and the meeting ended in solemn supplication to our universal Parent, for a blessing on the present opportunity: and, in humble acknowledgements for his gracious

assistance unto us, mercifully vouchsafed at that time, as also on many similar occasions in our passing along, among the little handful of his people situated on that small spot of ground. We took an affectionate leave of many after meeting; and on our way to the inn, called at a house where we had that afternoon taken tea, with a very valuable young woman and her aged father; with whom we now had a solid and truly memorable season of religious retirement.

When we reached the inn, we were immediately told, the captain had been there to inform us he was ready to sail. We were therefore obliged to leave the house without sitting down, or partaking of any refreshment for the body; but our minds being richly replenished with a portion of peace, and feeling a full clearance of that part of our mission, it was of but very little consequence to us.

We went on board about ten o'clock, and after a good sail, with a fair wind, were favoured to land in safety at Whitehaven, at nine o'clock on first day morning. After breakfast, my brother and myself went to our friend H. Bragg's, at Parton, to get a few hours rest. In the afternoon we assembled with our friends at Whitehaven. That day, before we parted with our friend John Abbott, he informed us of a prospect he had, of a meeting with the inhabi-

tants of a village between Whitehaven and Cocker-
mouth, querying if we had had any view towards the
same place. As it had attracted my attention, so
much as to lead me to apprehend we should not be
likely entirely to leave those parts without a similar
engagement, it seemed, we thought, very desirable to
unite with him and John Bateman; though I felt so
fatigued, and in want of rest, after our close travel-
ling and exercise on the island, as rather reluctantly
to submit to joining them in the appointment of a
meeting there, Dissington, on second day evening;
which appeared the most suitable time for them. It
proved to me a particularly exercising meeting, where-
in I thought I had to labour in the gospel, in as
much weakness and mortification to the creaturely
part, as at any time since my leaving home. In-
deed I was almost ready to call in question the recti-
tude of our being there; but, after we left the place,
and returned to Parton, I was permitted to feel a
degree of the calming influence of divine love, as a
canopy to cover my mind, so as to raise reverent
thankfulness to Him, who is pleased to accept the
feeble, if but faithful endeavours of his humbly dedi-
cated children.

On 3d day we all attended the week-day meeting
at Cocker-mouth, where we met our three kind fel-
low-helpers, who had accompanied us across the
water. In the afternoon we had a precious parting
opportunity together; in which we had to acknow-

ledge that the sustaining arm of divine sufficiency had been with us in our going forth, and mercifully supported throughout; sweetly uniting our little band in gospel fellowship. We had also to acknowledge that many circumstances respecting our union, had been marvellous in our eyes, and claimed the tribute of gratitude and praise unto our Holy Director, who remains to be unto his people, "Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God;"* and who was condescending, at that time, to bestow a portion of enriching peace; though we could truly, with abaseness of spirit, adopt the language, "We are unprofitable servants."†

On fourth day, John Abbott and John Bateman went to Kendal; and my dear brother and myself to a meeting at Setmorthy. In the afternoon, in our way to Broughton, we visited a very afflicted friend, I think the most pitiable object I ever beheld; but we were comforted in believing his sufferings would terminate with his existence here; and we also were ready to believe that it would not be very long ere the gracious call would be in mercy extended to his soul, to leave the shackles of mortality, for an abode in durable happiness.

From fifth to seventh day, we attended meeting at Broughton, Pardshaw, and Grey-Southen. On first

* ISAIAH ix. 6. † LUKE xvii. 10.

day, the 9th, we were at Maryport. In the morning meeting there, I very soon felt my mind under exercise, and divers states present were brought before me what I apprehended clear openings for communication; but I had not been sensible of the full time being come for it, when another stepping in, closed up the way, and we had no public labour there.

In the afternoon meeting we were permitted to experience a good degree of relief, although I do not suppose we were endowed with as much strength, to warn some, and encourage and sympathize with others, as we might have been, had we met with no impediment in the foregoing meeting. However we had renewed cause, through all, to thank our gracious Helper, and to confide in his all-sufficient Power.

On second day morning, after a season of divine favour, in the friend's family where we lodged, we left Maryport. In the remaining part of this week we visited the meetings at Allanby, Holm, Wigton, Bolton, Kirkbride, Coldbeck, and Mosedale. On first day, the 16th, we were at Carlisle, in the morning; and had a meeting in the evening at Scotby. On second day, we travelled over some very mountainous road to Aldston; where we had a meeting the next day. Fourth day, we were at monthly meeting at Allendale; and, in the afternoon attended a select meeting there, held in a friend's house, to accommodate

an ancient woman who was not able to get to the meeting-house. On fifth day, we had a meeting at Derwent, and returned to Allondale. Sixth day evening we had a meeting at Cornwood.

In the course of the last two weeks, many have been our exercises. In some of the meetings that we have attended, within that time, we have been favoured to feel, concerning a few individuals, that the pure cause which we are engaged to espouse, is lovely in their view. But, alas ! by divers others it hath appeared to be professed only by tradition. They hardly seemed sensible of the lamentation we were constrained, at times, to utter in their hearing ; and in one meeting in particular, we had cause to fear from the impressions we felt, that the enemy of all good, had so far prevailed with his temptations, that some were not clear of all unseemly and immoral conduct. May the God of all grace, still be pleased so to plead with these his poor bewildered children, as, by his powerful and delivering arm, to preserve them eventually from the jaws of the devourer ; through a timely obedience to his gracious precepts and invitation : “ Wash you, make you clean : put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes ; cease to do evil ; learn to do well. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord ; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow ; though they

be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."* Even unto such as these, his subsequent promise is, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."†

On first day, the 23d, we were at Sykeside meeting in the morning; and in the evening attended one at Solport; after which we returned to Sykeside. On third day we had a meeting at Moorhouse; which concluded our visit to all the particular meetings in the quarterly meeting of Cumberland and Northumberland. This week the quarterly meeting was held at Cockermouth; and after many days of considerable thoughtfulness on the subject, it seemed best for us to attend that meeting before we proceeded for Scotland, which we accordingly did on the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth of ninth month.

On seventh day morning, after a solid opportunity in J. and D. Ritton's family, where we had been divers times entertained with much kindness and affectionate attention, we left Cockermouth, for Parson, and there, in the agreeable society of our dear friends H. and M. Bragg, and their children, we spent a quiet afternoon. On first day morning, we attended Whitehaven meeting, which proved a season of relief and consolation to our minds, not hav-

* ISAIAH i. 16.—18.

† ISAIAH i. 19.

ing felt fully clear of friends there until now. In the evening we had a very large meeting, with the inhabitants of Workington, and went after it, though late, to Grey-Southen, to our kind friend John Fletcher's.

Tenth month, 1st, second day. This evening we had a meeting with the inhabitants of Brigham, at the close of which we parted with several friends who met us there, to whom we had been nearly united in gospel fellowship; expecting the next morning, to leave those parts and go directly for Scotland.

On third day we were accompanied one stage on our way, by our dear friend John Fletcher. On the road we were overtaken by H. Bragg, who intended to accompany us to Edinburgh. We got that night to Carlisle; and on fourth day morning, after a little season of retirement, we parted with our kind friend David Carrick and his family.

A few miles from Carlisle, H. Bragg proposed our calling to speak to a friend's family by the road's side, with which we complied; and were well satisfied in doing so.

This afternoon we entered into Scotland; and on fifth day we reached Hawick, where there are two families of friends, who sit down together in one of their

houses. That evening we had a public meeting there ; and the next morning, sat with the two families in that place separately, in which we felt satisfaction ; and, under a feeling of gospel love, we parted with them, except one friend, who went with us to Edinburgh, where we arrived before dinner, on seventh day.

On first day, the 7th, we attended the meetings there. In the morning sitting I was dipped into close exercise, without any opening for communication, and the watch word which deeply impressed my mind, appeared to be like the injunction given by our Great Master, to his immediate followers, when they were about to enter upon his mission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel : " Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."* This was accompanied with an awful impression, that to do our proper business, we must submit to visit from house to house, amongst our friends in that place. Before the afternoon meeting, I felt a necessity to unfold to my beloved brother, how I was circumstanced, who, I found, had been in somewhat a similar situation, but did not appear to be come at full clearness in his mind respecting it. This I much desired he might be favoured to do, before any such prospect was opened to our friends ; though I apprehended it

* MAT. x. 16.

might be right for us to commence our visit that evening, and thought I saw with what family we should begin; yet I could not feel satisfied to divulge it further, until his way was perfectly clear. However, after I had informed him what I did, I experienced a degree of relief from the weight of exercise which had rested with me, previously to my speaking to him on the subject. But it was otherwise with him, for he found the matter increase, and fix so much, that at the close of the afternoon meeting, in a very desirable manner, he informed friends of our prospect.

From some of them we received expressions of sympathy, and encouragement to pursue what we had in view; and it was by them proposed, as we should need some assistant to conduct us from one family to another, that our friend Henry Bragg, who had kindly accompanied us many miles, should, if he felt freedom so to do, aid us a little longer, by continuing with us through the impending engagement. To this he readily assented, and that evening we sat with two families. Second, third, and fourth days were employed in this way. On fifth day, we attended a monthly meeting at Edinburgh; and in the evening had one sitting. At the close of that day, we felt, at least, a present release from this place; and had cause to testify that the Lord God Omnipotent, is worthy to be sought unto, and trusted

in, by his children and people. And, oh ! may we prove humble and grateful receivers.

On sixth day and seventh days, we travelled to Dundee, accompanied by Alexander Cruickshank, our kind landlord at Edinburgh ; we had also the company of our friend Henry Bragg, who did not yet appear prepared to bid farewell to us. On first day, the 14th, we attended two meetings at Dundee, and had two sittings in friend's families. On fourth day we got to Balhalgardy, to our friend John Cruikshank's, under whose quiet roof I felt it a peculiar privilege to shelter that evening, being very unwell with a close cold, and much depressed in mind in the prospect of remaining engagements in this land.

On fifth day we rode five miles to Kinmuck, in order to attend a monthly meeting there that day ; but I was too ill to go to meeting, or to keep out of bed much of the time friends were sitting ; yet, obtaining a little relief in the afternoon, we went five miles further to Old Meldrum. On sixth day we had a meeting there ; and after a religious opportunity with a friend before dinner, and an opportunity after it with the family where we lodged, we essayed to leave that place ; but I could not, with satisfactory clearness, see our departure thence, without visiting the rest of the little handful of professors under our name, belonging to that meeting ; with which my brother united. We

got through them that evening and the next day ; and afterwards returned to Balhalgardy. On first day, the 21st, we were at the meeting at Kinmuck, which I think was in some good degree owned by the great Shepherd of Israel, and ended to satisfaction.

As I continued to feel very unwell, after meeting we went back to Balhalgardy, and rested there the remaining part of that day. Indeed I was ready to suppose I must tarry there many days before I should be well enough to move forward with what still remained to do thereabouts. But I recovered so far as to get to a public meeting appointed for us at Old Meldrum, on second day evening ; and, though it was very wet, without taking any fresh cold. On third day we had several sittings with the families within the compass of Kinmuck meeting ; and the remaining part of them, we sat with before their meeting on fourth day, which we attended. In the evening we had a public meeting at Inverury. The latter proved a season of some encouragement to my mind, feeling Holy Help to be near, which remains to be a rock of defence to the truly dependant in all their exercises.

After this meeting we went to Balhalgardy. The next day we parted with our kind and much esteemed friends of that family, with whom we had a solid season of retirement when about to separate, which

to us felt a comfortable close to our little services thereaway. On sixth day we had a meeting with friends at Aberdeen, where some of the few professing with us, appeared very much strangers to the pure truth. It was an exercising meeting; but some ability was afforded to labour; and in it we had peace. We felt much sympathy with one individual, in whose family we had a religious opportunity, before we left the place, in the afternoon. That evening we visited, at Stonehaven, the only remaining member of Ury meeting—a very ancient woman; but it was comforting to our minds, to find, in her very lonely situation, she was favoured, in her old age, to retain a lively sense of the pure principle in which she had for many years professed to believe. This was now her comfort and support; and we had a comfortable hope would be mercifully vouchsafed to the end of her pilgrimage here; and that at the close thereof she would obtain an admittance into the kingdom, where sorrow and sighing are no more.

On first day, the 28th, we had a meeting with the inhabitants of Montrose, which to me was a very trying one, believing but a small number, in a large gathering of people, were heartily engaged for their own eternal interest.

On third day, the 30th, we had an open and satisfactory meeting with some of the inhabitants of Dun-

there ; wherein some ability was afforded to sympathize with the rightly exercised in that place ; and to hand a word of encouragement unto such, to hold on in the line of manifested duty, for the promotion of the blessed cause in themselves and others. A caution was extended to some amongst them, to guard against a disposition which might lead to procrastination, in the very momentous concern of preparing for a future existence : and some other states present were, I trust, ministered unto in the love of the gospel.

On second day we had a meeting at Benfieldside. Third day, after some religious opportunities at Newcastle, whereto we returned the preceding evening, we went to Shields. On fourth day, we attended the week-day meeting ; and before we left the place in the afternoon, had a solemn season of retirement in Henry Taylor's family, whose daughter I had felt deeply for, she being in a very delicate situation ; and, I was apprehensive, not likely to be again restored to stronger health. My brother was led to address both her and her father in an affectionate, and, I thought, a very suitable manner, after which I felt my mind strengthened to supplicate at the footstool of Divine mercy, that whether it might be consistent with the will of Him, who does all things right, to lengthen the thread of life to more advanced age, or cut it short in the bloom of youth,

her way might be clear to the glorious abode of sanctified spirits.

The five following days we had meetings at Sunderland, Durham, Auckland, Staindrop, and Cotherstone. On third day, the 27th, we attended a monthly meeting at Staindrop; and on fifth day, the 29th, were at the week-day meeting at Darlington, which we sat throughout in suffering silence, except a short sentence, delivered by my brother, at the close of the meeting. After some deep wading, and heart-felt exercise, we both apprehended the way to obtain a little relief, pointed towards visiting the most active members in their separate families. This engagement occupied sixth and seventh days. On first day, the 2d of twelfth month, we attended the meeting there, which with three private religious opportunities that day, opened the way for our liberation from thence on second day; and that evening we went to Stockton. The next and two following days we were at meetings at Norton, Stockton, and Yarm.

In the course of this journey I have experienced many very trying, and in some sort new exercises; and I think those which I have passed through, in these parts, have sometimes been as deeply distressing as any I have ever yet known: but so it must be,

where the pure seed is in captivity in the hearts of the people ; and a favour it is to be found worthy to suffer with a crucified Lord. However some rightly exercised travellers, I believe, are preserved amongst them, for whom I feel near sympathy ; much desiring they may hold fast their confidence in Him, whose arm of all sufficient power, is still able to support his humbly depending little ones, under all tribulations which they are permitted to pass through for his pure cause sake. Such indeed may be comforted in the gracious promise, that " though a woman may forget her sucking child, yet the Lord will not forget"* those, who are rightly concerned for Zion's prosperity.

On first day, the 9th, we were at Whitby ; and on fourth day, the 12th, after a meeting at Malton, we went to York. Here we staid two days with our relations and friends. On seventh day, the 15th, accompanied by Henry Tuke, we went to Doncaster. We staid first day there, and attended the meetings, which to me were passed in silent exercise. The next morning we parted with Henry Tuke, he returning home, and we going towards Lincoln. There, on fourth day, the 19th, we attended a quarterly meeting, with a small number of friends, to some solid satisfaction. On fifth day, we called and spent

two or three hours with our kind and valuable friend Alice Burtt, at Welbourn; and before we parted, we had renewed cause to acknowledge that the presence of the Most High, is not confined to time or place; feeling, with her and her family, such a degree thereof, as, I trust, will enable the visitors and visited to retain a lively remembrance one of another.

On seventh day evening, the 22d, we got to Wellingborough. On first day we attended the meeting there. In the afternoon we went to Northampton. That evening we attended the quarterly meeting of ministers and elders there; and the next day the quarterly meeting for worship and discipline. This to me was a low time; yet it did not appear right to withhold communicating a little of my small stock of spiritual bread to others, though not to much relief. But, in the afternoon, just before we left the place, in a religious opportunity, in the family where we lodged, several other friends being also present, I obtained an increase of that substantial food, which enabled me to leave them in thankfulness and peace.

We returned to Wellingborough with our much-esteemed friends B. and T. Middleton. On third day, we attended a week-day meeting at Finedon,

and after it, and a season of retirement in a family there, we went to Thrapston. On fourth day, we reached Chatteris, where we spent a very pleasant evening, with our late ancient companion on the Isle of Man, John Bateman; who, we thought, appeared to be reaping a reward for his evening's sacrifice.

On seventh day evening, the 29th, we were favoured to get well home; and had the satisfaction of meeting our relations and friends in usual health, and from them a very cordial welcome to Needham again; which, with the merciful preservations dispensed to us in our long travel, calls for humble thankfulness to the Author of all our blessings.

On third day, the 1st of first month, 1805, we attended our monthly meeting at Woodbridge, and returned our certificates; which as far as related to myself, was under the humiliating sense of unfitness, and incapacity for the great work in which I had believed myself required to engage, for the promotion of the most dignified cause which can be espoused on earth. Yet in retiring from the field of labour, and settling down at home, my mind, at times, has been favoured to partake of a degree of peaceful tranquillity. This

is not at our own command; and therefore, when it is graciously vouchsafed should be accepted with gratitude and praise, as from the treasury of Him, who is a rich rewarder of them that diligently seek and serve him, with integrity and uprightness of heart.

CHAPTER X.

1st Month, 1805, to the 9th Month, 1806.

E. Gibson's burial, and that of another individual.—Her sister Ann returns her certificates.—Quarterly meeting.—Accompanies W. Foster, jun.—Quarterly meeting.—Earith.

Within a week after my brother and I had returned from our journey into Scotland, we left home again, accompanied by our dear brother Dykes, to attend the interment of our much beloved friend Elizabeth Gibson, of Saffron Walden, who was removed after about a weeks illness. She was far advanced in life, being in the seventy-sixth year of her age. Her faculties, both spiritual and natural, remaining very bright to the last, she will be much missed in the militant church; yet, as there is no doubt of her happy admittance into the church triumphant, we have no cause, on her account, to mourn; believing she was ripe for a glorious transition from the troubles of time to the joys of eternity. She was permitted to put off mortality in a remarkably easy manner, without the least apparent suffering at the final close.

Many friends from different parts attended, and the meeting, in the early part of it, was solemn. Under this precious feeling, dear Mary Pryor of Hertford, delivered a very lively and heart tendering testimony; but for want of all-keeping their proper ranks, I believe we lost, in some measure, the favour designed for us by the great Head of the Church; yet the meeting was permitted to end under a covering of good. And at the grave side, an awful silence prevailed, and two short testimonies were there delivered, before we quitted the remains of the dear deceased.

In the twelfth month this year, my brother Samuel and myself attended the interment of ———, and had cause to believe, that after all the vicissitudes he had been permitted to experience, during his long pilgrimage here, both in spiritual and temporal concerns, he was mercifully favoured to know his transgressions to go before-hand to judgment, and to obtain a seat within the glorious confines of eternal felicity. We had a solid meeting on the occasion, and I believe divers minds present, were led seriously to consider their latter end. And some of us were enabled to feel a tribute of thankfulness raise in our hearts unto Him, whose “mercy endureth for ever.”*

* PSALM 136.

At our monthly and quarterly meetings in this month, my beloved sister Ann Alexander, delivered up the certificates she had received from these meetings, in order to visit America, and produced several testimonies from thence of her acceptable services in that land. She also spread before us a humble, lively, and animating account of her exercises, merciful preservations and divine support; acknowledging to the sufficiency and goodness of that power, who had enabled her to leave all and follow him, and who had brought her home in peace.

Sixth month, 1806. For a considerable time past, my mind has mostly been permitted to know a season of deep depression, and great deprivation of religious comfort. In this state I went to our quarterly meeting held at Ipswich, this week; where I was favoured, in some of the sittings thereof, to experience a revival of gracious communion with the Father of spirits, which, in my drooping condition, was a renewed mark of his merciful condescension, that calls for humble gratitude. In our women's meeting, I felt strengthened to advocate the noble cause we were met to promote; and, towards the close of it, my heart and knees were bowed in awful thankfulness, to the great Master of all rightly gathered assemblies. I apprehend we

were favoured with rather an unusual covering of good ; under this we closed, and I trust many of us were enabled to separate one from another with a tribute of praise to the bountiful Dispenser of his own precious gifts. In a more than common manner, has the consolation of that day, been permitted to continue uninterruptedly with me. Oh ! that I may prove a grateful receiver of this most desirable visitant ; and stand unreservedly resigned to all the future dispensations of his unerring wisdom and goodness, saith my soul, Amen.

In the forepart of the seventh month, I accompanied Wm. Forster, jun. to several public meetings within the compass of our monthly meeting ; and towards the close of it, I met him at Tivetshall, and was with him a few days while he was in that neighbourhood, engaged in the same weighty service. This I had reason to believe he was favoured to feel very important ; in an especial manner for one so young in years, and so recently called to a public espousal of the cause of righteousness and peace. Though the meetings he appointed were not all owned with the same degree of Divine influence ; yet, I think, there was not one, either about us, or in Norfolk, that I could doubt the rectitude of his holding. Some of them were in a very precious manner sanctioned by the pre-

sence of the glorious Shepherd of Israel. Yea, it sometimes rejoiced my heart to see and feel one in the days of youth, so dedicated to the most noble cause, and so strengthened to espouse it. Humbly do I crave that the blessing of preservation may be his happy experience. May ability be granted to keep near to his holy Director, that thereby he may be favoured to detect our common enemy, in all his appearances; and so the good work begun in his heart, may be carried on to the praise of Him, "whose reward is with him, to give every man according as his work shall be."* The "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." The all in all to those who serve him with integrity.

In the retrospect of the time we spent together, my mind has sometimes been permitted to possess such a portion of tranquility, as leads me to hope I was not moving out of my right allotment, in endeavouring to hold up the hands of this my junior friend, under the exercise which I believe he was called to bear by the great Father of the spiritual family.

Ninth month, 27th. At our quarterly meeting last week, very different was my situation, to that

* Rev. xii. 12.

which I experienced in the foregoing one. I think I have not often, if ever, sat, through the several sittings of a quarterly meeting with so little truly religious feeling. But I believe many others were permitted to obtain a morsel of spiritual food ; both immediately from Him, who is to his people, "meat indeed,"* and through the ministry of some rightly qualified servants. Many are the dispensations expedient for some to pass through, in order to become altogether sanctified and meet for the kingdom undefiled. Oh ! gracious Father, suffer not thy hand to spare, until all in me is removed which is contrary to thy pure and blessed will !

After the quarterly meeting, though in a tried and stripped state of mind, I went with my brother Samuel, in order to attend the marriage of Lovell Squire and Sarah Brown, at Earith. There, on the day of their union, I apprehended I received some small commission to espouse the good cause ; but in so much feebleness as to lead me to fear the rectitude of my movements : however, at the close of the evening, I was mercifully favoured to believe I had done what was my duty to do, and no more, which afforded a ray of comfort to my drooping mind. Since our return home, though still low and poor, I feel satisfied that I complied

* JOHN vi. 55.

with my brother's request to accompany him. Much do I desire the dear young people, who are just entering into life, and whom I much esteem, may be disposed to "seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness ;"* unto which state is subjoined the gracious promise, that, all other necessary blessings shall be added.

* Mat. vi. 33.

CHAPTER XI.

3d of 12th Month, 1806, to the 8th of 4th Month, 1807.

Reflections on a prospect of visiting London and Middlesex quarterly meeting, &c.—Tottenham.—Plaistow.—Tottenham—Southgate.—Grace-Church-Street monthly meeting.—Colchester.

Twelfth Month, 3d, 1806.

Yesterday I found strength to unfold to my friends, at our monthly meeting, a religious prospect which has long been weighty before me, to visit the families of friends in three of the monthly meetings, constituting a part of London and Middlesex quarterly meeting, viz. Grace-Church-Street, Tottenham, and Barking; extending also to some other services, particularly to visiting the families of friends at Colchester.

Awful indeed has been, and still continues to be, the view of this very important engagement. The prohibition which I feel to take any thought about a help meet for the work, has, at times, added to the weight thereof; yet, at some other seasons, when I am enabled to attain to that state of pure submission,

wherein I can say to him who is infinite in wisdom and goodness, "Not my will, but thine be done,"* I have sweetly felt ability to adopt as my own, an expression of Job Scott's: "Quietness, as a canopy covers my mind." When this calming influence prevails, I feel an unshaken persuasion that all things needful will be provided. Oh! that my mind may be preserved so steadily fixed on the immovable Rock, that whatever adverse gales may be permitted to blow, my trust and hope therein may prove "as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast"† I can hitherto acknowledge the goodness of Him, who, I humbly trust, hath called for this surrender of my will to his all-wise disposal, in having granted me a little portion of peace, since disclosing to my friends a willingness once more, in this way, to prove my attachment to that cause, which I sometimes feel dearer to me than my natural life.

At present, it is my expectation to commence the visit with attending Tottenham monthly meeting, at Waltham Abbey, on fifth day, the eighth of the first month, 1807.

Tottenham, second day, 12th of first month.

This evening I have parted with brother Samuel, who, in his wonted kindness, accompanied me from

* LUKE xxii. 42.

† HEB. vi. 13.

home last third day, and the next afternoon we reached this place. On fifth day we attended the monthly meeting at Waltham Abbey, where I produced my certificate, and, I trust, obtained the sympathy of some of my brethren and sisters in this part of the vineyard. I had also the satisfaction to find my friend W. Forster, jun. was bound to a part of the families hereabouts. We commenced our visit on sixth day morning, when my brother left me for two days, and we met again at Winchmorehill on first day. We all attended the meeting there, and in the evening had a large assembly of those not in profession with us. This morning we all were at the meeting of ministers and elders in London, and came to Tottenham to dinner. With so weighty a prospect before me, it feels pinching to part with one, who, both in natural and religious bonds, is so near to my heart, as my dear brother Samuel. But on that Arm of Power which hath hitherto supported, I desire to rely. Humbly craving his holy aid, quietly to endure every dispensation of his gracious Providence, both in heights and in depths.

Plaistow, third day, 20th of first month.

Though I had not got through my engagements in Tottenham quarter, I felt bound to attend a monthly meeting here to-day. After the reading of my certificate in both meetings, a committee was appointed

in each, to render the needful assistance in the performance of my engagements in Barking quarter; and, in a conference which I have had with the joint committee, I ventured to open a little prospect I have for some time seen, of having the company of my friends John and Tabitha Bevans, in the families hereabouts. I also then informed my friends, that I expected to visit this monthly meeting before I returned to Tottenham, and to commence the engagement to-morrow morning. My proposals were cordially received, and united with by the committee; J. and T. B. being of the number, and acquiescing with the part which more particularly applied to them. All this proved relieving for the moment: but alas!

my mind, this evening, is so reduced and brought into deep exercise, that I scarcely am able to believe I ever was acquainted with the voice of the Good Shepherd. I am almost ready to conclude that all I have felt concerning my present awful engagement, and every thing of a similar nature, have had their origin in the grand deceiver of mankind, who cares not by what bait he prevails over the children of men to follow him, thereby alienating the soul from the bountiful source of all substantial good. Oh! Thou who canst search the secret recesses of every heart, permit me to know thy blessed will, before I get so entangled with the power of darkness, as, in any wise, to bring reproach on thy precious cause, which thou knowest is more dear to me than my

natural life ; for this I could willingly surrender this night, rather than remain here to harm the pure testimony of truth.

Tottenham, third day, 3d of second month.

Yesterday I closed my visit to Barking monthly meeting, and returned here, accompanied by my very kind friends, John and Tabitha Bevans, whose company and help in the work, together with the great kindness I experienced under their hospitable roof, both from themselves and their three daughters, I hope long to retain in grateful remembrance ; and as I believe my beloved friends, parents and children, were much disposed to aid me, a poor pilgrim, in the name of a disciple, may they be permitted to receive a reward for the work's sake. Though I feel indeed but an unprofitable servant ; yet, with a humble heart, I can acknowledge that notwithstanding some of the closest baptisms I ever passed through, were permitted me whilst with them, I also knew some seasons of heavenly favour ; I think some, wherein my mind* was as nearly united to the Beloved of souls, as at any time in my life. Yesterday morning, after a religious opportunity with the two handmaids in J. Bevan's family, who are not in profession with us, my mind could rejoice in believing, beyond a doubt, that the allotted portion of labour in that part was

finished. Then I thankfully felt it to be an eternal truth, that though many are the afflictions of those who sent forth on the Great Master's errands, yet as the heart is kept singly dependant on his arm of power, he will most assuredly deliver out of them all; and grant a crown of life, as a reward to all who are faithfully engaged to hold out to the end, in doing his will. Thus, after the various conflicting seasons hitherto permitted me to experience, I am enabled to thank thee, Oh Father! for thy mercies past, and humbly hope for thy gracious protection, under every future dispensation of thy will.

Fourth day, 4th. To-day is the monthly meeting at Grace-Church-Street; and for some days past I have been endeavouring to know whether it would be right for me to attend it; but I have not been able to see any light upon going; and feeling much indisposed in my health, a day or two of rest under this roof, my cousin William Forster's, is very salutary to my enfeebled frame. As I have not seen my way to go to London to-day, I have forwarded my certificate to J. G. Bevan, to present it to the monthly meeting; though I undoubtedly believe it will be right for me to finish my engagements in this part before I leave this place again; and as my friend Alice Chorley, an elder of this meeting, has kindly proposed accompanying me for a few days, I hope to

be enabled to enter afresh into this field of labour after the monthly meeting here to-morrow.

Thus far, in the accomplishment of the arduous prospect with which I left home, I have had abundant cause to acknowledge, that all things needful have, to my humbling admiration, been provided; and, therefore, I dare not distrust the bountiful hand which hath already dispensed so liberally. However, awful indeed does the approaching engagement appear, of going amongst the largest body of friends I have ever visited, in this individual way, without the most distant expectation of a companion in the work; but I marvel to find the calm resignation, which my mind is mercifully favoured at times to experience, in looking towards this important part of my present mission. Yea, I am ready to believe, that nothing short of the sustaining Arm of everlasting mercy, could uphold me under what I now have in view. I therefore feel bound to adore Him, committing myself once more to his holy guidance.

Fifth day morning, 5th of the 2d Month.

J. G. Bevan has just been here, and informed me, on returning my certificate, that their monthly meeting is adjourned till next fourth day, which gives me concern, having no expectation of being liberated

from these parts, so soon as that time ; but, for the present, I wish to leave much thoughtfulness on this subject, endeavouring to do what appears right in my allotment in this part of the work.

Evening. At the meeting-house to-day, I met a letter from my friend Mary Pryor, in which she expresses herself in these words ;—"Believing a necessity laid on me, I venture to offer accompanying thee on thy visit to the families of Grace-Church-Street meeting." So unexpected a proposal, and one so truly acceptable, raised a tribute of thankfulness in my heart to Him, who I humbly trust, has bound this, my dear ancient friend, again to evince her attachment to his pure cause, and unite with a little sister in this great work.

Tottenham, fourth day, 11th.

To-day I have attended the adjourned monthly meeting at Grace-Church-Street, where I informed my friends of the prospect I have of a companion, who is not likely to be at liberty from her own monthly meeting, before this day week ; and also that I did not feel myself at present fully clear of this quarter. My information was cordially received, and friends kindly adjourned again, until fifth day, the 19th, for our accommodation ; which feels

relieving to my mind, believing by that time I shall be favoured to see my way to depart hence ; where I have for a long time been very affectionately cared for, by my much esteemed friends and relatives of this family.

Southgate, fourth day, 18th.

I have now visited all the meetings, and families of friends in Tottenham monthly meeting, except two or three individuals who are not at home, and a few others, who do not incline to receive such a visit. I have also had a few public meetings ; the last was held yesterday evening at Mimms, in a meeting-house belonging to friends.

In the course of my engagements in this quarter, mourning and lamentation have been much more frequently the covering of my spirit, than any thing like rejoicing. Yet, I verily believe, there is a precious few, who are sweetly preserved loyal to the King of kings. May their hands grow stronger and stronger in the holy warfare ; and may the number of upright hearted standard-bearers, be increased amongst them.

Fourth day, 4th of third month.

We have now been nearly two weeks very closely engaged in our arduous service of visiting families

of friends in Grace-Church Street monthly meeting, and my beloved and honourable companion and myself, have hitherto been enabled to move along in much harmony and concord. I feel it very relieving to my exercised, and often deeply tried mind, to have the company and help of one whose religious experience has been much larger than my own. One who, after so long a warfare under the banner of the Captain of salvation, can frequently testify that he is worthy to be obeyed to the utmost of our ability ; that verily his "yoke is easy, and his burden light."* I think I never could more feelingly subscribe to the same gracious truth, than since the commencement of the present engagement ; for though, at times, the faithful labourer must be brought into a state of bondage, when and where the pure seed, kept in captivity ; yet it is a favour to be found worthy to suffer with a suffering Lord. I believe all the exercises which dedicated minds may be permitted to pass through, for themselves and for others, are not so great as those which are often imposed, by the enemy of all good, upon such as are pursuing the vain and delusive pleasures of the world.

Second day, 16th of third Month.

Yesterday my much beloved companion left me, after our attending the morning meeting at Grace-

Church-Street, and having a solid season of religious retirement, at Joseph Savory's, where we were nearly a month very kindly cared for, by him, his wife, and daughter Mary. Mary Pryor went that evening to Hertford, in order to attend the select quarterly meeting there, in the evening. We were favoured to part under a feeling of that unity, which had been mercifully vouchsafed to us during our late engagement. A tribute of humble gratitude was raised in our hearts to the bountiful Giver of every blessing, for the support which had been from time to time granted us ; and for the holy aid which, in a peculiar manner, was in some families dispensed to us, to advocate his precious cause. This, on the bended knees, was vocally acknowledged by my dear friend, and heartily subscribed unto by myself, in prostration of soul before the Most High : and a song of praise lived in my heart through the remaining part of the day.

To-morrow I expect to reach Colchester, where, the next day, I hope to meet my dear friend Martha Brewster, who is liberated by her friends at home, to accompany me through the families in that monthly meeting, and to visit some other meetings in Essex.

Colchester, seventh day, 28th of the third month.

We have nearly got through our visit to the

families of friends in this monthly meeting. And my beloved companion M. B. and myself, have harmonized in our feeble endeavours to promote the holy cause among our fellow professors hereabouts ; many of whom we cannot but covet may know an increased dedication of heart to the pure unfoldings of heavenly love. By this means, they would become strengthened to stand faithful to the various testimonies given us as a people, to uphold to the world. We have felt our minds animated and comforted in beholding the upright zeal, which clothes our ancient and honourable friend and father in the church, dear John Kendall, under whose roof we have been kindly accommodated during our tarriance here.

On second day, the 30th, we left Colchester, and went to Dunmow, where, the next day, we attended a monthly meeting, and, taking meetings in our way at Stanstead, Bardfield, and Sudbury, we reached Ipswich on 2d day, the 6th of fourth month. On third day, we attended the monthly meeting there, when I delivered up my certificate ; and had cause to acknowledge, that although I had passed through some very pinching trials, and some seasons of close exercise ; yet, that holy help has been near in the time of need. In the remembrance thereof, my soul feels renewedly bowed in thankfulness to the great Author of every blessing.

I returned home on fourth day, the 8th; and though the sensible enjoyment of divine acceptance is much withheld, I feel, at times, ability to adopt the language of the psalmist, where he says : " Bless the Lord, O my soul ; and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, *and forget not all his benefits.*"*

* PSALM ciii. 1, 2.

CHAPTER XX.

21st of 7th Month, 1808, to the 27th of 8th Month, 1809.

*Parts with her nephews W. H. A. and J. A.—
with her sister Ann and brother William.—Visit to
heads of families in her own monthly meeting.—
York.—Returns home through Lincolnshire.*

1808. Fifth day, the 21st of seventh month.

This day William Henry Alexander, and his brother Joseph, left Needham for Broughton. A separation which, to my affectionate feelings, is very pinching, having no expectation of ever seeing much more of them. They have always been exceedingly dear to me for their beloved parents' sake ; and, at present, there is much in the precious boys also to attach me closely to them. The prayer of my heart is, that whatever may be their future allotment in life, if they should be permitted to arrive at a state of maturity, they may be preserved within the limitations of the pure truth, and so dedicated to the most noble cause, as to be found worthy to become standard-bearers in our Israel, when many of those, who now feel the weight of the Ark of our testimonies resting on their shoulders, shall be called from works to rewards. Amen.

At Bury, on the 21st of the ninth month, I took leave of my beloved sister Ann Alexander, under a feeling of very near regard; she intending to go forward thence towards York. This was another parting which very closely tried my tenderest feelings; but a degree of quiet which I believe was at my own command, accompanied my mind in my journey home, which was cause of humble gratitude to Him, who is able to say unto the troubled sea, "Peace, be still."* It is a pleasant reflection, that during the time of our residing in the same place, a precious harmony was uniformly maintained between us; and much do I desire, that though we are now likely to be far separated in body, we may know that durable cement, true unity of spirit, which is the bond of lasting peace.

On fifth day afternoon, the 13th of tenth month, my beloved brother Wm. Alexander left Needham, his native place, with a prospect of settling at York. This was to me a closely trying separation, from one to whom by the ties of natural affection, and the still more uniting bond of religious kinship, I have, from early life, to the present time, felt very nearly attached. His removal with that of his endeared companion in life, and their precious children, has made a chasm in our domestic circle here, which I cannot expect ever to see filled up to me; yet, as I believe my be-

* MARK iv. 39.

loved brother and sister, are entrusted with qualifications adapted to their new situation, I feel something which forbids my repining at the loss, which, as an individual, I have sustained by their departure ; though I have felt, and still do feel, so intimately bound to them, that the separation is one of my most bitter cups. But though these dear objects of my love are so far removed, as to preclude all probability of much more sweet and social intercourse with them, I am fully aware that I have cause still to number my remaining blessings, both in a religious and domestic point of view. And my heart's desire is, to stand so unreservedly dedicated to the Author of them all, as to feel a capacity to know, what I shall render for his multiplied favours.*

* As her own memorandums furnish but few remarks on the period contained in this chapter, the following extract from a letter to a near relative, dated 21st, 12th month, 1808, may be acceptable to the reader. After stating that a heavy fall of snow had prevented many friends from getting to the quarterly meeting, particularly from the western side of the county, she says, " We had not one from that quarter in the select meeting, and not a representative in the women's meeting, though four were appointed. Thou wilt suppose such a deprivation just now, must prove particularly trying to some of us. Indeed I cannot describe what my feelings were, when I found how our little company was likely to be deserted : but, with thankfulness we may acknowledge, though we were deprived of divers of our friends, whose presence would have gladdened our hearts, yet the great President of our as-

1809. Third day, the 10th of the first month.

I have lately been engaged with divers other friends, by appointment of our monthly meeting, in compliance with a recommendation of the last yearly meeting, in paying a visit to the heads of families, on the important subject of the fourth query.* Though I have not felt the weight of the work so to rest upon my shoulders, as I believe it has rested on some of my fellow-labourers; yet, since the close of the engagement, I have been permitted to review my movements with them, in a degree of humble confidence that it was my desire, when I could do nothing for the promotion of the cause which I love more than life, I might be preserved from doing any thing, that could, in any wise, weaken the hands of those with whom I have been banded, and to whom I felt bound in near gospel fellowship. And I believe, in the close of our visit, we have, individually and unitedly, had cause to acknowledge that a portion of solid satisfaction, has been the recompence of our resignation to this delegation of the church.

Assemblies condescended to afford a renewal of his ancient goodness, and enabled some of our spirits to bow in reverence at his sacred footstool, and implore the continuance of his fatherly protection.^a

* This query is the third to WOMEN friends.

Fourth day, 21st of sixth month.

Though my present motive in leaving home, is a social visit to my endeared relatives at York, yet I feel desirous of dwelling so near to the pure spring of eternal excellency, as to be permitted to accompany with the incorruptible seed of the kingdom; whether in suffering or rejoicing: and I crave the blessing of preservation both in heights and in depths.

First day, 27th of eighth month.

Last fifth day evening I reached home, after an absence of nine weeks and one day. Greatest part of the time has been spent with my dear brother and sister at York. My brother S. Alexander, met me at Ackworth general meeting, and I returned with him to York; after which we left the county by Hull and Thorne; and from the latter went into Lincolnshire, where we visited all the meetings except two, which were taken by my brother, in his way into Yorkshire. In leaving home, I had no expectation of engaging in religious service; yet my beloved brother going out with a prospect of visiting the above meetings, and intimating it to our monthly meeting, I have felt well satisfied with the opportunity of accompanying him therein. I trust some of

the little flock, where our lots have been cast, have been encouraged to pursue the one thing needful, with increasing vigilance ; and our own minds strengthened renewedly to acknowledge the goodness and mercy of a faithful Creator, who is ever ready to uphold in every season of trial, his humbly dependent children.

SUPPLEMENT BY THE EDITOR,

*Containing some account of her last journey, also of
her illness and decease.*

The reader will probably have noticed a considerable chasm between the two last chapters ; for concerning this period the Editor does not find any memorandum of her own. This might arise from her not being particularly engaged in advocating that cause which she evinced to be so dear to her ; yet there is reason to believe, that during this, and the remaining time, of which she relates but few occurrences, her mind was preparing for the engagement in which she closed her faithful labours.

• Although much gospel service was not her allotment in these periods, yet she was very usefully occupied ; many times, and on divers occasions, in kind assistance to some of her near relatives, whose situation claimed her skilful care, as an affectionate nurse and attendant.—One of these was our beloved niece, Lucy Barton, whom she attended at the time of her decease, in the summer of 1808.*

* For an account of Lucy Barton, see the 10th part of Piety Promoted.

I come now to relate some particulars of her last religious journey, the sequel of which deeply affects my heart ; yet, I hope, with resignation to unerring Wisdom, who has seen meet to cut her work short in righteousness.

She left home with the full unity and concurrence of her friends, on the 26th of the tenth month, 1809, under a concern to visit the families of friends at Worcester, and to hold some meetings in those parts. She was accompanied to Worcester by her brother and sister Jesup. In a letter to her brother Samuel, from Warwick, after speaking of two friends calling on her at Bury at Martha Brewster's, she says, "Before we left that quiet dwelling, my beloved M. B. in a little season of solid retirement, had a morsel to hand, which proved to my deeply discouraged mind, for some hours after, truly consoling : yet, I have repeatedly, since that time, experienced my faith to be, as it were, smaller than the grain of mustard seed ; and I have been almost ready to doubt the rectitude of my present undertaking. At some other times a portion of holy aid, has, in mercy, been so far extended as to lead me to hope I have not run without being sent."

"That evening we reached Hannah Evens' hospitable habitation in good time for tea ; and were

not entirely unexpected. We staid the meeting next day, and left Godmanchester, about two o'clock, for Wellingborough; where, from a letter I hope thou receivedst from Elizabeth Wheeler, I suppose you had anticipated an awful meeting with our beloved friends Benjamin Middleton and his daughters. We had not obtained the smallest intimation of the situation of the family till we got into the house, when we were met by cousin Wheeler, whose countenance plainly indicated something important. Greatly surprised we were, on being informed, that, after two weeks illness, our much esteemed friend, Tabitha Middleton, had, last fourth day, closed her valuable life. Dear Benjamin and his children revived us with much composure, and we spent a very interesting evening, in the house of mourning. Before we left them this morning, I felt bound to yield to a season of retirement, and in it to offer the tribute of sympathy which lived in my heart towards them, accompanied with a persuasion, that not only a glorious mansion was prepared for the dear deceased; but that those who remained to lament her departure, were in a particular manner under the protecting wing of ancient Goodness."

At Worcester she was joined by William Forster, junr. (then in those parts on religious service) with a view of entering upon the arduous engage-

ment of visiting friends of that city in their families. At a monthly meeting held there the twenty-sixth of the tenth month : they presented their certificates, and opened their prospects, which met the concurrence of friends. The next morning they entered upon the work ; and proceeded without intermission, as to any other religious engagement, till the first day week following, the fifth of the eleventh month ; when they had a large public meeting in friends meeting-house, appointed with a view, principally, to the lower class of the inhabitants of that place. The next evening they had a meeting in a parish on the other side of the river ; and, on third day morning, the seventh, attended another public meeting in friends meeting-house appointed under a concern for the higher classes of the people. That evening they finished the family visit in Worcester. The testimonial sent from that monthly meeting to the monthly meeting of which she was a member, may be the best criterion, by which to judge of the satisfaction this visit afforded to her friends. An extract from it will be found at the close of this account.

As her labours, at this period, were hastening to a close, perhaps a minute recital of the occupation of her time, though sometimes unattended with any particular observations, may be acceptable

to the reader. On fourth day morning, the eighth of the eleventh month, W. Forster, junr. and herself, attended a public meeting at Malvern, and one in the evening at Upton on Severn; and that night went to Tewksbury. On fifth day forenoon, they were at a meeting of friends of that town; had a meeting at Pershore that evening, and reached Evesham the same night. On sixth day evening they had a meeting on the premises of a friend at Netherton, about four miles from Evesham. The next morning they returned there and called upon several friends in their families; and that evening were at a public meeting, a mile and a half out of the town.

On first day morning, the twelfth, they were at a meeting with friends at Evesham; and, in friends meeting-house, in the evening, they had a very crowded meeting with the inhabitants. Before she went to bed, my dear sister felt herself much indisposed, but did not make much complaint. The next day her companion thought her very unwell; but in the afternoon they went to Alcester, and, in the evening, attended a large and satisfactory meeting in the Town-Hall; towards the close of which, she was engaged in solemn supplication. They walked nearly a mile to a friend's house to lodge. There she appeared much exhausted with fatigue, went to bed very unwell, and passed a restless

night. The next morning, the fourteenth, they returned into the town, and had three sittings among friends in their families, in which, although very unwell, she took an acceptable part. In the afternoon, they returned to the friend's house at which they had lodged; and, in the evening, had an opportunity in the family, in which she was strengthened to labour under considerable exercise of mind. She was rather more unwell before she went to bed, and had another poor night. Two meetings were appointed for the following day, the fifteenth, and it was pretty much concluded, over night, for her to give up that in the morning at Broomsgrove, and to meet William in the evening at Droitwich. On arriving at the latter place, however, he was surprised and affected to find that, accompanied by Candia Burlingham, who had been her companion since leaving Evesham, she was gone on to Worcester in a post-chaise; finding herself so ill, as to wish to get on as fast as she could. They arrived at Worcester in the evening, where she was violently affected with sickness, but her complaint was deemed bilious as she was subject to such a disorder. The night she passed without much sleep; and the next morning an eruption appeared. She first discovered it herself and said, "Surely I have got the small-pox," adding, "I believe I know when I took it; from a little child whom I met in the street previously to leaving Worcester." An apothecary was

called in, who pronounced the disorder to be the small-pox. He thought she had treated herself judiciously, and spoke very encouragingly of the symptoms. Her sister Jesup, who was returned to Worcester from a visit in Wiltshire, also thought it of a large and favourable sort.

She did not appear at all alarmed at finding the disorder was the small-pox; although, in early life, she had felt much dread of it; but expressed great concern at the trouble she was likely to bring on her cousins Thomas and Eliza Burlingham's family, feeling very tenderly for them. That afternoon Wm. Forster, jun. who was about to write to one of her brothers, at her request, went up and sat awhile with her. She desired her very dear love to her brother and sister, and wished William to say, "That although she had passed through a greater degree of exercise and suffering than ever she had experienced in the same space of time, accompanied with less evidence of divine acceptance; yet, that afternoon, she thought she had been favoured with a precious evidence, that she had been there (alluding to her late visit) in better wisdom than her own. This, she said, had tended to quiet the anxiety with which she was at first tried, in considering the difficulty and perplexity she might occasion to others; and she humbly trusted it might prove as a little anchorage to her mind in seasons of future tossing."

She further remarked that it looked probable she might get through the disorder ; but added, " I feel no wish respecting it." On William Forster, jun. asking her, just before he left the room, how she was, she replied, " I am as comfortable as I can be." At that time she was quite free from pain, except a little fullness in her throat.

In the evening, speaking of the public meeting at Alcester, she remarked what a comfortable one it was, and said, " I little thought it would be the last." Then pausing awhile, added, " Probably." She then observed that it was trying to her to be so far from her relations ; but added, " The cause is dearer to me than my natural life."

As soon as her complaint was determined to be the small-pox, her cousins T. and E. Burlingham left their house and went over the way to his father's, on account of their infant son. The next morning, 6th day, the 17th, some family arrangements were made, which in addition to the kindness and cheerfulness with which her dear relatives gave up their house for her accommodation, appeared quite to relieve her mind from all anxiety.

After this her head and throat became very painful ; and the difficulty of swallowing, and even of breathing, was very alarming ; and she herself

thought she should never be able to swallow again ; but, by proper application, these symptoms were much relieved.

At different times, in the course of her deeply trying illness, she would say, " It would be a kindness to let me sink quietly away, rather than keep me in this state of suffering ;" yet she frequently expressed herself very gratefully to those who nursed her ; sometimes saying, " she hoped they would be rewarded for their tenderness and care, better than she could reward them." She was favoured with much serenity and resignation throughout, and appeared to have nothing of importance, either of spirituals or temporals, to claim her attention.

Four days after the crisis of the disorder, she told her medical attendant she got no better ; and on the following day, she desired that her relations might be informed, with her dear love, that she felt her weakness daily increase, and thought she should hardly be likely to see them any more. Her weakness not being greater than the apothecary expected, and no unfavourable symptoms appearing, he did not apprehend any cause for alarm ; on the contrary, on being interrogated, at different times, he had always expressed himself favourably as to her getting through.

The next day, the 29th, her disorder put on a very unfavourable appearance, and further advice was immediately procured; but the physician did not think so unfavourably of her as the surgeon. That evening and the next morning, by the means used for her relief, there was so much improvement, that her medical attendants, and those around her, flattered themselves with hopes of her recovery. She passed through 5th day night, the 30th, as favourably as could be expected; but did not appear so well the next morning as such a night led her attendants to hope for; and, in the forenoon, she seemed to be sinking fast, and thought herself going. She asked the hour of the day, and being told it was half past twelve o'clock, she wished to know if the doctor had been there, and what he thought of her. Being informed that he found her not so well as he had hoped for; after a short pause she said: "There is no probability, no probability, of my struggling through: what a favour it would be to be taken now, rather than suffer as I have done, day after day, and night after night." She then asked her sister if she was willing to give her up, and added, "What a comfort it has been to me that thou hast been with me." Upon her sister asking her if she had any particular message to any one, she replied, "No! My dear, dear love to all,—to all," adding, "and to all thy children, I love them all very dearly." She then further said, "I hope my poor soul will be saved. A

place in the smallest mansion is all I ask. A place, in the smallest mansion is all I ask."

She was fully satisfied with the doctor and apothecary; and that afternoon, having revived again about the time of their coming, she told them she hoped they would be rewarded for their kindness towards her, both in this world and that to come. On account of the disorder, her relations T. and E. Burlingham, had been obliged to keep from her till their infant child had been vaccinated. That evening, Thomas came to her; she knew him, took him by the hand, and expressed herself very affectionately to him.

On seventh day morning early she relapsed again; and in the forenoon of that day, she asked the apothecary if he thought her close was near. He replied, "he thought it was." She answered, "What a favour!" In the afternoon she said, "It is marvellous to me I am so long in dying; it is not common, I think." Some time afterwards, she said, "The spirit cannot depart; the spirit cannot depart. Blessed—blessed." At another time: "It will not do, the time is not yet come." After that, to the admiration of her medical attendants, and all around her, she revived again and took nourishment freely.

On first day, the 3d of twelfth month, she changed

several times in the course of the day ; and, in the evening, being informed, that her brother Samuel was come, she wished him to come to her ; but desired he might be informed she was a poor creature to visit, and could say but little. Going to her, she took his hand and turned her face towards him, seeming to try to look at him, (for she had been several days blind) and spoke affectionately, but only a few words intelligibly. She was soon informed that her brother Dykes, and her neice Lucy Maw, were also in the room. She spoke to the latter, and seemed to intimate her wish to speak to her brother Dykes, but her weakness so increased just then, that she could not articulate ; yet she gave, afterwards several clear proofs of knowing that her relations were present. In the course of the evening she laboured under great distress from the load of disease, and often said, "Dear, oh dear," arising from the extremity of her suffering ; yet these expressions were evidently under a sense of care, to avoid, either in word or manner, murmuring at the last trying conflict of nature.

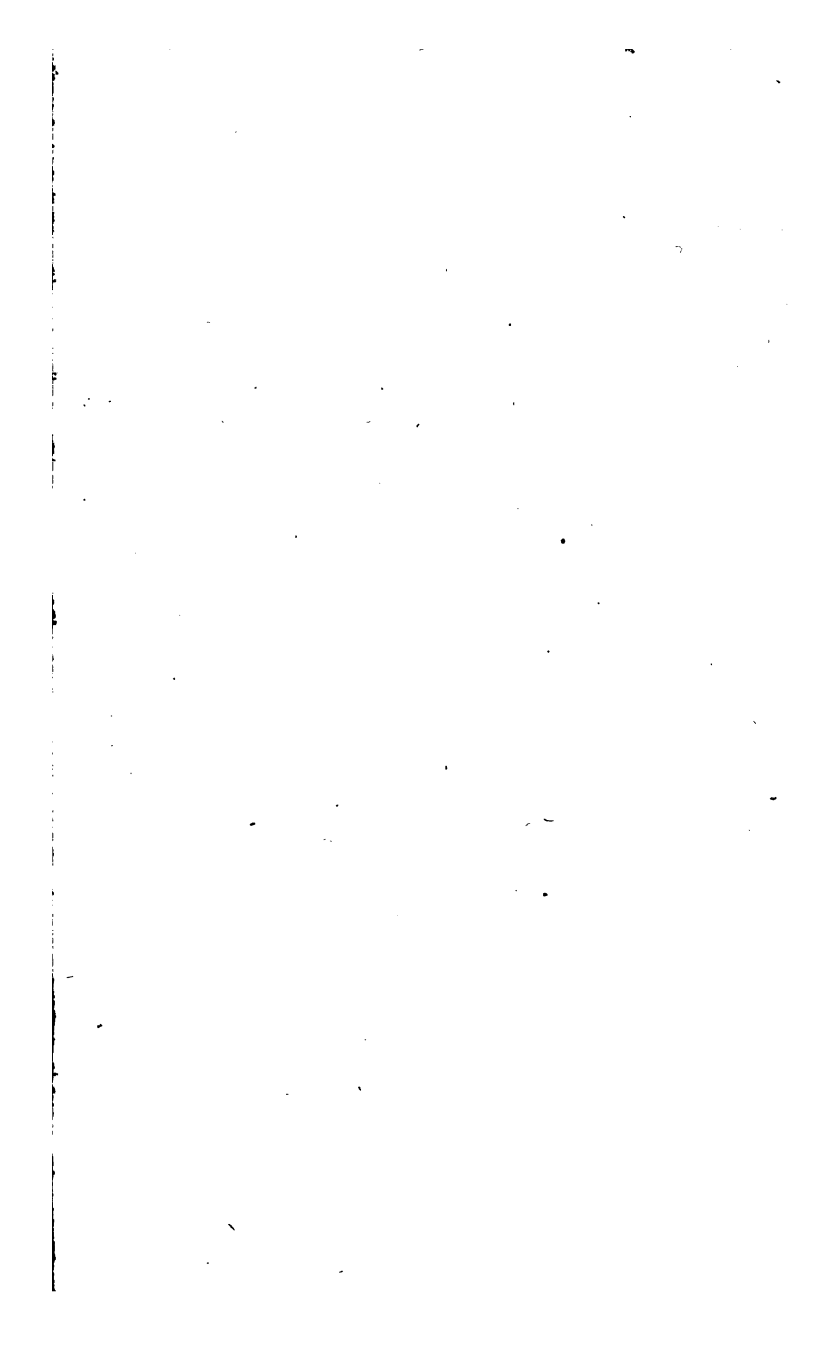
Her brothers and neice were thankful in being permitted to see her living ; not only for their own satisfaction, but from a secret belief that her knowing they were there, afforded her mind a little comfort under her deeply trying conflict. During this last struggle of nature, at several different times, she held up her

hands as in the attitude of prayer ; and, about half past three, on second day morning, the 4th of the twelfth month, she quietly breathed her last.

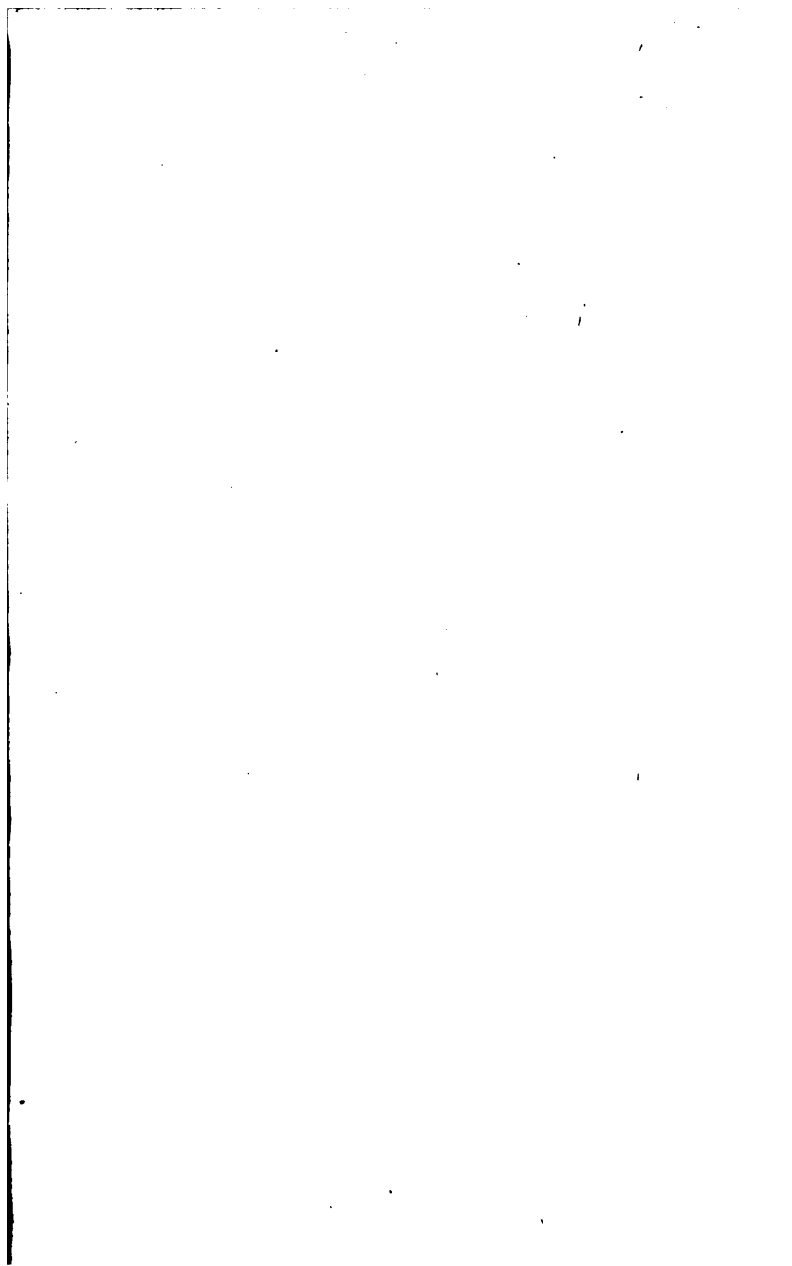
Her remains were interred at Worcester, on the fifth day following. She was about 50 years of age, and had been a minister about 21 years.

Perhaps I cannot more suitably close these memoirs, than by the concluding words of the testimonial sent from Worcester monthly meeting to her own ; and which adopted by the latter monthly meeting in the testimony addressed to the yearly meeting ;—" We may weep over her as a friend or as a relation ; we may mourn the loss which the church has sustained of one of her upright pillars ; but, on her account, there appears no cause for sorrow. She was, we believe, favoured to finish all she had in commission ; shewing herself therein a good and faithful servant. The great reward of faithfulness, was permitted to follow, in quick succession, her allotted portion of labour ; and, we doubt not, she is entered into the joy of her Lord, and into her Master's rest."

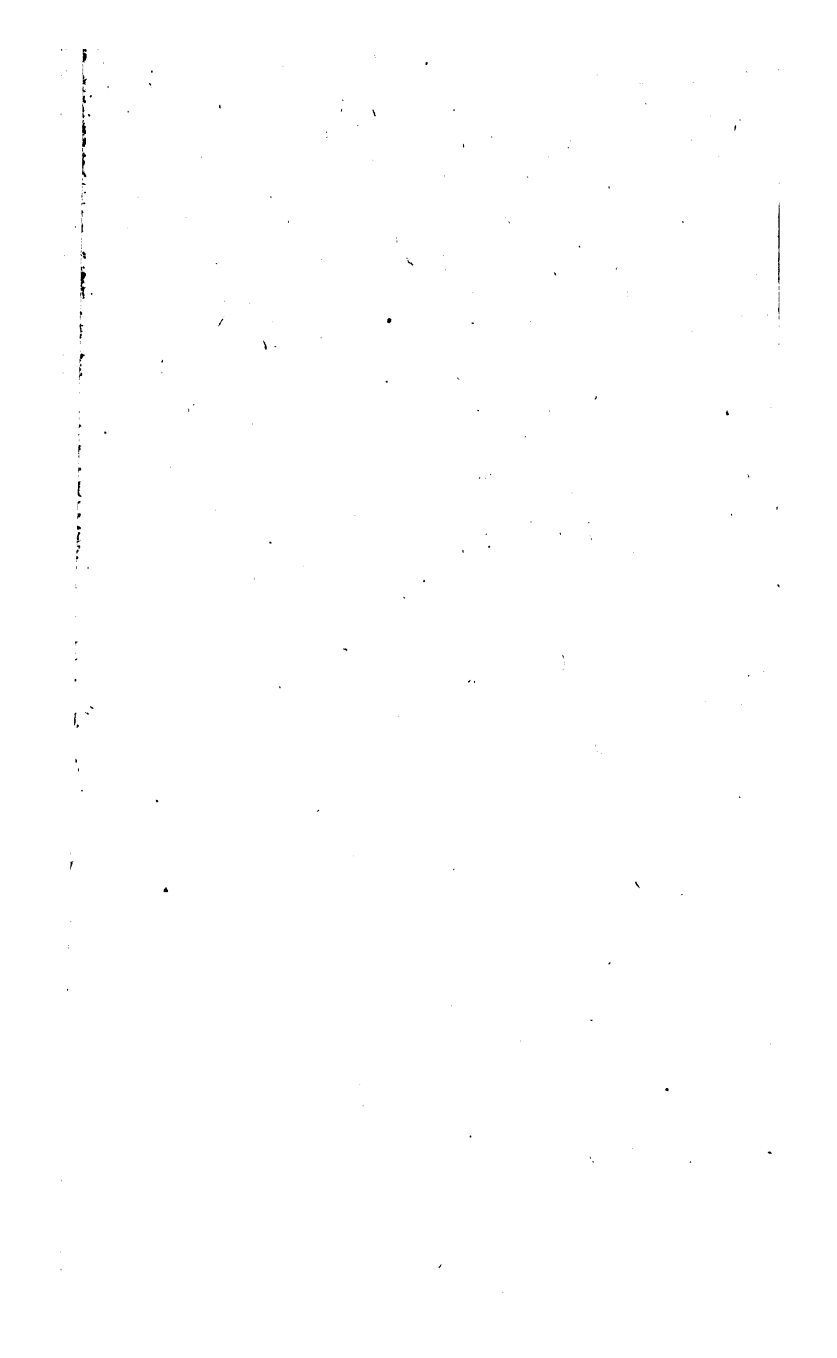
THE END,











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